ABPS news

Spring 2020

Official magazine of the Association of British Philatelic Societies

Volume 27 Number 1

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A Right Royal Occasion

Her Majesty the Queen
officially opens
the new premises of
The Royal Philatelic Society
London
at 15 Abchurch Lane
on 26th November 2019

The ABPS News is also available online
www.abps.org.uk

THE ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH PHILATELIC SOCIETIES LTD

ABPS

2 2
LONDON

London 2020 International Stamp Exhibition

Business Design Centre
Islington, London

2 to 9 May 2020
Note the dates now!

Find out more – visit
www.london2020.co

ABPS News, *for and about Societies*

The Magazine of the Association of British Philatelic Societies is published four times a year: spring, summer, autumn, winter.
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Editor: Keith S Burton ***ISSN 1353 6869)***

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Cover pictures: *Richard Stock welcomes Her Majesty to 15 Abchurch Lane, The Unveiling of the Plaque, Her Majesty talking to a number of young philatelists - all involved with Stamp Active at Stampex. Photographs by Michael Pitt-Payne.* See page 51 for the report.

An electronic copy of the newsletter can be viewed on the ABPS webpage *www.abps.org.uk* soon after publication.

Copy dates: please send your material as soon as ready; at present the copy deadlines are 15th January, 15th April, 15th July, 15th October. We cannot guarantee to include items in specific editions. Items may be edited for publication. Email copy is preferred (unformatted).
Send copy to the editor: Keith S Burton (see p 58)
Illustrations should not be assumed to be accurate as to size or colour.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN:

As I write this, I am looking forward to the York Stamp Fair at the end of the week. By the time you read this, we will all be looking forward to the philatelic event of the year: LONDON 2020 at the Business Design Centre in Islington, the usual Stampex venue, from 2nd-9th May. This International Exhibition Week will certainly have something for everyone: two wholly different International Exhibitions, meetings for many philatelic interests, from Astrophilately on Monday 4th to the Ceylon Study Circle on the closing Saturday. There will be Seminars for Youth, Sunday 3rd May; Post Cards Monday 4th May, and Postal Stationery, Friday 8th May. The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists will be signed and the Congress Medal presented. What a week!

This ABPS-sponsored international event will certainly be something special, but we must all look forward too to the ABPS Philatelic Congress of Great Britain which this year will be at Market Harborough from Thursday 3rd to Sunday 6th of September, rather later than usual because of London 2020. This is the ABPS Flagship event and there will be the usual features: "Goodie bags" for all, the Kay Goodman lecture, National and International speakers and, of course, the Banquet on Saturday night. No RDP Ceremonies this year, but they will be back in 2021, in Harrogate, for the Centenary of the First Signing of the Roll.

Finally, you should be seeing the new ABPS banners at Philatelic events. Yes, we really do all of those things! I would like to draw your attention to the Awards and Small Grants. There are many people in local societies who have worked hard for many years keeping things going, filling all of the officers' jobs at different times. They may well be deserving of ABPS certificates of merit. Do put their names forward to the Awards Committee; they will be delighted to hear from you. You may be organising a Philatelic event and be eligible for an ABPS Small Grant. Our Treasurer will be pleased to hear all about it.

Have a good Philatelic 2020!

Graham Winters FRPSL

Richard Stock (President of the Royal) introducing Gavin Fryer to Her Majesty.

It was a great honour to represent ABPS at the official opening of The Royal's new home - 15 Abchurch Lane

Editorial

Sometimes it is easy to decide on what to write in the editorial, sometimes it can be difficult as there seems to be little of great moment in the philatelic world. The Chairman has mentioned LONDON 2020 and the opening of the new home of the Royal which takes much of my thunder. So I was feeling introspective and looked back over the last seven years of ABPS News; 2013 Spring was the first one that I was involved with. One thing that keeps arising is the need for more members and more people willing to take up the jobs, large or small, in societies. Many societies have closed for lack of either or both of these, a few because expenses have exceeded income and reserves. Yet when I go to Fairs, Conventions or Exhibitions there are many people there spending interesting amounts of money. There are children at Stamp Active at Stampex who are keen as mustard to look through and take home collections, individual stamps or whatever they can lay their hands on. Indiscriminate maybe sometimes, but definitely enthusiastic. Some of them have organised stamp clubs in their own schools or neighbourhoods. I wish that I could tap into their enthusiasm and market it to you all.

Then it occurred to me to check the societies that send in reports. I sometimes hear grumbles that it is always the same ones in the magazine. I checked back and found that we have 209 affiliated societies and federations. Of these, 83 have not sent any report in the seven years. I cannot believe that they are not actively doing anything so why won't they share it with the rest of us. Another job for someone - yes - but it doesn't have to be the secretary, nor does it need to be each issue. Once a year would be a great start.

Sharing good practice might help another society, giving ideas of themes for a meeting or publicity to bring in those isolated collectors. Which brings me to another point. ABPS offers you a free small advert each year - any event (which can also go in the Diary if it is a bit special). The take-up has been astonishingly small - see page 8 for what Morecambe and District came up with. Publicity can be a good thing - especially when it is free!

Come on folks, our hobby is worth working and fighting for. *Keith Burton*

The ABPS affiliation year runs from 1st January to 31st December. At the start of the year I send out email requests to each society and club treasurer and secretary to re-affiliate. Those very few clubs with no email contact details are sent letters. If you are a secretary or treasurer of a society or club and you have not received a re-affiliation request please do not hesitate to contact me. My contact details can be found on page 58 or the ABPS website.
Barry Stagg
ABPS Membership Secretary

Society anniversaries, 2019-20

According to the date of foundation shown in the societies' information on our records, significant anniversaries include those shown below (though several societies have not let us known their foundation date, so there may be more).

Heartiest congratulations to all involved in these milestones:

Chelmsford & District Philatelic Society – 100 Years

A Celebration of one hundred years young and still going strong
The first meeting of our society was held a year to the day after the Armistice ending the First World War was signed. It took place in the Reference Library of the Chelmsford Borough Library at its then site in Market Road. It was held on a Tuesday, a tradition that has continued to this day, and was under the chairmanship of **Captain J A Unett**, the Chief Constable of Essex, with ten other members in attendance. The founding of the Society is accredited to **Mr Frank Wiseman** who approached friends to ascertain if they were interested in forming a philatelic society. A small advertisement to that effect was published in our local newspaper, The Essex Chronicle, on 31st October 1919.
A programme of meetings has continued to this day (not even interrupted by WWII) at a number of different venues over the years.
We currently meet at Christ Church United Reform Church, just outside the city centre in New London Road on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month, these being held in the afternoons during the winter months.

In 1947, 1954, 1969, 1979, 1985 and 1999 we hosted the Association of Essex Philatelic Societies' stamp days and for our 90th anniversary in 2009 we produced a booklet of *Members' Recollections* along with *A History of the Society*.
We have an extensive archive which goes back to our inaugural meeting and this has been deposited in the Essex Record Office.
For many years the Society has held a celebratory dinner on, or about, the 11th November. This year in celebration of our centenary we continued the tradition, holding it at the County Hotel, Chelmsford. Many of our 30+ members and guest attended. It was an excellent occasion enjoyed by all.

David Everard

Taunton Stamp Club – 75th Anniversary Year

We finished off our 75th Anniversary Year in December with a display of Polar Related souvenir postcards, covers and ephemera presented by **Bill Tilbury**. It was a most entertaining evening with an interesting insight into the Polar Explorers and some of their funding methods. He even included paw prints of the last dog allowed in Antarctica (dogs were banned from 1st April 1994 as they

were deemed to be non-indigenous!). The end to the year included a Members' Session on *What I Bought at Midpex* which provided a wide array of material showing our members' specialist interests – this came as a result of our organised coach trip to Midpex where we brought along 28 members and guests. In November we attracted a footfall of 90 paying visitors to our Annual Stamp Fair. We only charge 50p entrance but it ensures that we know the number of attendees. All of the 10 dealers present reckoned they had a good day and will be looking forward to the 2020 Fair to be held on 31st October. If there are any dealers out there who would like a table just contact our Fair Organiser – Peter Hardie on 01823 666371. *Peter Hardie*

Woking & District 70th Anniversary

We invited about 45 guests and entertained 39. As expected roughly half were Woking Society members and their families. One country member came down from Scotland which led to some happy reunions. Others came from various Woking organisations and Surrey Federation societies. The Guest of Honour was Woking Deputy Mayor **Councillor Saj Hussain** who is postmaster of a Woking district. He greatly enjoyed talking to guests and viewing the display boards. These contained items from the Woking Society archives, a selection from the Woking Postal History Collection and early picture postcards of Woking. A special edition of the Woking Society magazine 'Penny Post' was handed out and photos were taken from all angles. The Mason Cup was on display which was won by Woking at the recently-held Surrey Federation annual event at Claygate. It was an informal evening which allowed guests to socialise and enjoy a glass of wine with a sandwich. *Ron Trevelyan*

Woking celebrating their 70 years with Deputy Mayor Councillor Saj Hussain

ABPS accredited judges

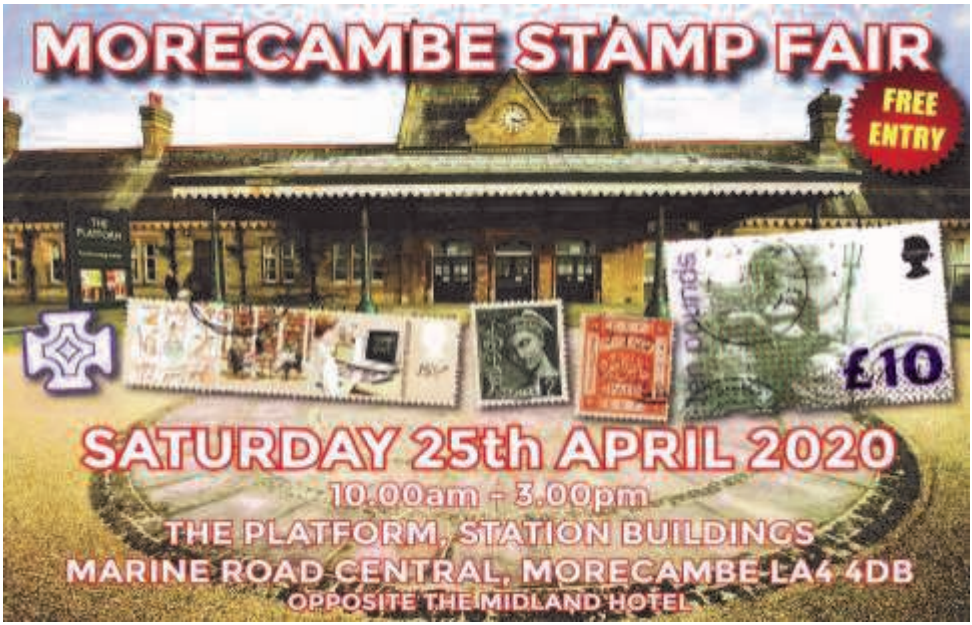
The current list of ABPS accredited exhibition/competition judges can be found on the ABPS web site *www.abps.org.uk* Click on the "Exhibiting" tab, then the "Judges" tab that is on the 2nd line of tabs.

South Midlands Stamp Club: 10 years old on 21 October 2019

In these days of shrinking numbers the South Midlands Stamp Club was delighted to celebrate the 10th anniversary of its foundation on 19th October 2009. It was (and still is) unusual in that its monthly meetings take place only in the afternoon, and especially having very few invited speakers. The Club's catchment area covers places well over 40 miles away and members of over 11 different local clubs, so there would have been a risk of members from a wide range of south midlands' clubs finding the same external speakers as in their local club. The club has no annual subscription and those attending simply pay at the door each time they come: since we started we've welcomed 116 different people (including some on holiday from Friesland). These aspects were the brainwave of the founder **Colin Searle**, and proved to be extremely popular. We have a steady attendance of about 16 members, sometimes rising to the high 20s. We find that one of the reasons that our members keep coming back is that we have a policy of extreme flexibility in interpretation of the agreed topic for each meeting.

John Gledhill

If you think we've missed you out, please let the Editor know.



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ATTENTION OWNERS OF LARGE/ VALUABLE COLLECTIONS –

Are You THINKING of SELLING?

This is

HOW THE STAMP TRADE WORKS

Philatelic Expert Lets You into his *Selling Secrets* so you can benefit from a *totally different* (and New) Selling Experience

by Andrew McGavin

1 **If You want to learn** how the stamp trade works, please read on… When I was 15, I did. I wondered if there was some secret source of supply? So, I bought my 1st stamp mixture, (wholesale I thought), broke it into 50 smaller units, advertised it in Stamp Magazine 'Classifieds', and waited for the orders to roll in… I'm still waiting, 48 years later!…

Wrong Offer ✗ Wrong Price ✗ Wrong Place ✗

(naive seller ✔ = ☹ me but I was only 15 at the time!)

2 **Three years later,** attending my first public stamp auctions I wondered how some bidders seemed to buy everything, paying the highest price? It didn't occur to me that they were probably Auction Bidding Agents, paid by absent (dealer) bidders to represent them. I wondered why two collectors sitting side by side muttered to each other **"he's a dealer"** as if that justified him paying the highest price…

…but did it really? What was the real reason? How could a Dealer pay a higher price than a Collector? It doesn't make sense, does it? Collectors are customers. Customers usually pay the highest price, unless… for a Collector, this was…

Wrong Presentation ✗ Wrong Place ✗ therefore Wrong Price ✗

3 **Fast-forward 48 years later** to a British Empire collection, lot #1 in an International Stamp Auction – Estimated at $3,000, but we were the highest bidder at $21,000 – **YES** – some 7-higher. Including Buyer's Premium in the extraordinary sum of $4,788 we actually paid GBP$25,788= upon a $3,000 estimate… **however,** we broke it down into sets, singles, mini-collections etc. We made a profit. Some might say it found its price. Others may say:

Wrong Estimate ✗ Wrong Presentation ✗

Wrong Structure ✗ Wrong Protection of Price ✗

– Lucky for the seller that 2 well-healed bidders saw the potential value that day or it could have been given away… the seller could easily have lost out, couldn't he? or she?

So, by un-peeling the layers of obfuscation, hopefully we can all agree:

The Secret is Simple –

IT'S ALL About: TIMING

Plus the 3 Philatelic 'P's –

Presentation ✔ Place ✔ and Price ✔

4 **Understanding the problem…** I always remember the car trade had their own little 'bible' – Glass's Guide. I've no idea, I've not even looked – in this internet-dominated world, it may even have disappeared. Well, there's an insider Stamp Trade publication for Stamp Dealers called "The Philatelic Exporter". There's nothing that special about it – and you won't learn much or find massively reduced prices by subscribing – **BUT** – it is a forum, a paper focal point, a last 'bastion' in this on-line transparent world that we inhabit… whereby dealers (and auctioneers) can try and communicate with each other. I publish my own articles there…

Recently I discussed the outcome of my 10 years' simple research, asking dealers and auctioneers **'what is your biggest problem?'**

To a man, (why are we almost all men), they replied – **"my biggest problem is stock, if I can get more of the right stock I can sell it easily"**

Strange that, nobody ever asked me the same question back – because my answer would have been entirely different (and I don't treat it as a problem) – **I seek to satisfy collectors**

This is the reason why my company has such massive advertising. This is the reason why we spend up to 8% of turnover – up to $200,000 per annum in marketing costs. (Most dealers don't even sell $200K per annum).

About the Author! Andrew found his Father's stamps at the age of 10. A year later at Senior School he immediately joined the School Stamp Club. He 'specialised' (!) in British, but soon was interested in Queen Victoria which he could not afford. The 2nd to last boy wearing short trousers in his school year, he religiously bought Post Office New Issues on Tuesdays with his pocket money. He soon found that he enjoyed swapping / trading stamps as much as collecting them. Aged 19, eschewing University he quickly found a philatelic career in London, leading to creating his own companies in stamps. Andrew has authored many internationally published Stamp Tips' articles, appearing on Local Radio and National TV promoting Philately with Alan Titchmarsh. Andrew's area of expertise is unusual – in so far as his grounding in collecting and wide philatelic knowledge has given him a deep understanding of Philately. He has studied Philately for the past 45 years, in combination with Commerce and Marketing Expertise, enabling him to create synergies in 'lifetime' interlinked Stamp Selling Systems, selling until priced stamps through to handling collections & Rarities up to £700,000 each. Today Andrew is fortunate to be co-owner with his Wife, of Universal Philatelic Auctions (aka UPA) – the Largest No Buyer's Premium Reducing-Estimate System Stamp Auction in the World, creating records selling stamps to 2,261 different bidders from 54 different countries in his latest auction. Andrew stopped collecting stamps aged 18 reasoning that his enjoyment of stamps would be in handling them and selling them…

ANDREW PROMOTING PHILATELY ON THE ALAN TITCHMARSH SHOW ITV

REQUEST Your 'Tips of The Trade' FREE copy ➤

5 Why is that? Because, as the world revolved **the Stamp Market, imperceptibly *Changed*, and incrementally – Massively**

So, although few will tell you this, it's clearly evident that the problem for most Sellers of Stamps today is no longer absent stock – but absent collectors in the place they choose to sell their stamps in. Simply put, other Dealers, Auctions, Stamp Fairs have not invested in marketing to have a strong Customer core. To be fair, this is not true of all – but it is true of most – so that our nearest competitor 'Apex' had 800 bidders in a recent auction. In my most recent 20,000+ lot UPA 68th Auction we had 2,184 different bidders from 58 different countries, 95% of whom were Collectors. Some other well-advertised auctions only have 200 bidders (a high percentage of whom are dealers – so that, essentially they are Dealer-dominated auctions) – so that when you sell through them – you're paying up to 18% (including VAT) seller's commission and the buyer is paying up to 25% **and** more in Buyer's Premium, credit card fees, on-line bidding fee, delivery and insurance etc... **AND all of that so that your stamps may be sold, wait for it – TO DEALERS (and some collectors),** but Dealers, that naturally must make a profit to survive...

6 Now, let's examine the cost implications – Example: Your stamp collection sells in public auction for $800. Upon a 25% buyer's premium, the dealer pays $1,000 and it could be more. He breaks it into $2,000+ selling price (much lower and he'll go out of business). The auction charges you a seller's commission of up to 18% (VAT included) upon the $800 sale price. This is GBP$144. Therefore you receive approaching $656 – which is approximately 33% of the dealer's $2,000+/- retail selling price - **BUT... now that we have identified the problem...**

Isn't the Solution Staring us Right in The Face?

7 Why Pay an Auction to Sell to Dealers: Sell to Collectors instead ? In our example with buyer's premium, sellers commission, lotting fees, extra credit card charges, VAT and even insurance - you're already being charged in different ways up to 40% of the selling price to sell, possibly or probably, **to the wrong person.**

Why not direct that 40% cost you're paying to sell to Collectors instead? Sounds good, so why hasn't this been done before ?

8 Truth is, it *Has* been done before... Sometimes the 'old' ways are the best ways aren't they? But in today's enthusiasm to obscure the obvious so that money may be taken, almost surreptitiously, in numerous different ways, (without us apparently noticing until we see the cheque in our pocket) – the transparent 'seller pays' has been deliberately 'obscured' – so much so that, **amazingly**, the latest 2017 European Auction Selling Legislation just introduced – now requires auctions that charge 'buyer's premiums' **to warn the buyer in advance.** Just imagine going into the petrol station, and being warned that the price you're paying to put fuel in you tank is not the real price, you have to pay a premium! Obviously, there would be an uproar...

9 How can you cut out the middleman and sell to Collectors instead? Well, I can think of two ways. 1). **DIY** - Do It Yourself selling on eBay. That may be fine for lower grade material – but, would you risk auctioning relatively unprotected rare material on eBay ? We don't and we're professionals, so we should know what we're doing. Or 2). Cut out the extra middle-man. **Use my company UPA, which reaches collectors instead.** Here's how it works: Continuing from our previous **Example:**

The auction sold your stamps to a dealer for $1,000 – but You received circa $656

UPA sells them to collectors for you for up to $2,000 – even after 40% commission you receive up to $1,200. Up to $544 more. Now that's amazing, isn't it?

10 Sounds Good Andrew, but Can You 'Deliver'? Obviously, nothing is as simple as that, and as we auction stamps to collectors some collections may 'break' to the example $2,000+/- but the stamps may be sold for more or less – especially as we reserve all lots at 20% below, (Estimate $2,000 = $1,600 reserve) and not everything sells first or even 2nd time so prices may come down... Naturally, it's not that straightforward for a dealer either – he may sell at a discount to 'move' stock **OR**, like many dealers he may be sitting on the same unsold stamps, that you see time and time again, in dealer's stocks years later and still at the same unattractive prices...

So, I think it is more reasonable for you to expect up to 30% to 50% more, indirectly or directly via my **Collector's Secret Weapon:** Universal Philatelic Auctions, which moves material more quickly, by incrementally reducing estimate (and reserve) price in a structured selling system...

11 Q.) What is the Collector's 'Secret Weapon'?

A.) It's called the Unique UPA Reducing Estimate System...

This is a rather long explanation, I don't want to bore you, but 18 years ago, when my wife and I set up Universal Philatelic Auctions I detected that the stamp trade's biggest problem then was not what sold – ***but what didn't sell...*** So, because I didn't want to try to keep on offering the same either unsaleable or overpriced stock I created the unique UPA Reducing Estimate (and reserve) Selling System. Simply put, if a lot doesn't sell in the 1st auction we reduce the estimate (and reserve) by 11% and unlike other dealers and auctions **WE TELL YOU – 'US'** – once unsold. If unsold after the following auction we **reduce by a further 12%** and **WE TELL YOU 'US2'**, if unsold after a 3rd UPA auction we reduce by a further 13% and **WE TELL YOU 'US3'** and so on till the lot finds its price, is sold or virtually given away...

12 Any Scientist will tell you that combinations of ingredients can produce powerful results. So we created the unique combination of my UPA Reducing Estimate System, married (in stone), with UPA's fair 'NO BUYER'S Premium' policy, PLUS each lot carries my total 'no quibble' guarantee – this formula is the reason why within the span of 4 auctions (one year)... 90%-95% of lots broken from a collection have sold. This Unique Philatelic Selling System **Formula** is the reason why we are the largest stamp auction in the UK today with 2,184 different bidders in my recent auction.

In Hindsight Dealers warned me 18 years ago that my idea wouldn't work. 18 years later I think I've proven that it does. (Reader: Please Request a complimentary UPA catalogue – using the contact details further below)

13 OK, Cut to the Chase Andrew, what's the offer? All of my Selling Systems are based upon **selling to Collectors Globally**, so that 95% of stamps sold by UPA are

ATTENTION OWNERS OF LARGE/ VALUABLE COLLECTIONS –

sold directly to Collectors. If you wish to benefit by up to 50% or more, depending upon your circumstance and type of material, by cutting out the middleman – then this offer may be for you. Generally 'time' is the enemy in our lives, and for most dealers not being able to sell stock. Now is the time to let 'time' do the 'heavy-lifting' and consider making 'time' work for you, so that at UPA you can make time your friend.

14 AND the SMALL PRINT? Some lots are too small in value for us to offer this system. Other lots may not be suited to selling in this manner (e.g. surplus mint British decimal stamps best used for postage) – especially if the market is heavily compromised by stock over-hang in specific areas. Some Collectors will not wish to use time and systems to leverage price, others will want to agree a specific price and know that they are paid precisely this amount. No client is treated like a number and no client is forced like a square peg into a round hole.

15 OK, What Do I Do Next?

a). You contact UPA to discuss with Andrew or a highly-qualified Auction Valuer/Describer what you have to dispose of and your options bearing in mind your specific interests / requirements.

b). If you wish, get a 2nd opinion, but investigate what type of auction / dealer you are dealing with. Is it a Dealer's auction with relatively few collectors? Can you see where / how the Dealer sells? If you can't easily see any pricelists or high quality selling catalogues – that Dealer may sell your stamps to other dealers.

c). Finally you ask U P A to collect your stamps, insure in transit for an estimated replacement retail value...

16 What Happens then? A member of my Team telephones/e-mails you to confirm safe receipt. 'Overnight' valuations, unless simple, are rare. Valuing stamp collections that have taken tens of years to create takes time. Depending upon your priorities / timescale I, or an experienced member of my Team will contact you to discuss your requirements and the options available to you for the sale of your collection. Provided only that you feel well-informed and comfortable do we agree strategy.

Contact UPA: 01451 861 111

UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIAL:
Dear Folk at UPA,
I've dealt with the public for 37 + years, and as both a consumer, and a businessman, I have created huge numbers of orders from all over the world from a complete range of suppliers from all aspects of our daily lives.

But I don't believe I have ever encountered such sensitivity, such kind thought, such understanding as I have with you in our initial meeting, our subsequent successful transaction, and now this.

I recall well the item you highlight, and realise that this one item has such colossal personal value, I could never part with it.

It has been an absolute pleasure dealing with yourself, and I am more than willing for you to use this e-mail as commendation to others who may be thinking of disposing of their collection.

Many, many thanks for a memorable experience, and I will try to emulate your thought and care in my own business sphere.

Yours sincerely
D. E. B. Bath, UK

17 How Strong is the Stamp and Cover Market? Everybody knows that the strongest areas are GB and British Empire. Post-Independence / QEII material sells but if hinged at considerable discount. Mint hinged material pre 1952 is regarded as the industry 'norm' and therefore desirable – but genuine never-hinged commands a premium. Europe sells but at reduced levels, Americas is good, as generally is Asia but the 'heat' has come off China which is still good – and Russia which can still be good. East Europe is weaker. Overall, Rarities throughout can command their own price levels and real Postal History has good demand.

18 What Should I Do Next? Discuss your collection with U P A. Contact Andrew or an experienced member of his Team now...

19 Guarantee: I want You to be absolutely Sure So If You're not sure we'll transport and return your stamps for FREE up to £200 in actual shipping cost at our expense. It sounds generous (and it is), but it's far less than the cost of driving 100+ miles each way and 3 to 6 hours in your home valuing your stamps.

20 My Double Cast Iron Guarantee: We can do a better job valuing your stamps in our office than in your home. If you don't agree I'll pay you an extra £50 for you to pay somebody trusted to open the boxes and put your albums back, in the same place, on the shelf they came from.

21 Act NOW: Contact Andrew or an experienced member of his Team using the on-line selling form at our website, by fax, telephone or by mail. We'll work harder for you not to regret the decision to sell all or part of your collection...

Andrew McGavin, Philatelic Expert,
Author, Managing Director
Universal Philatelic Auctions UPA

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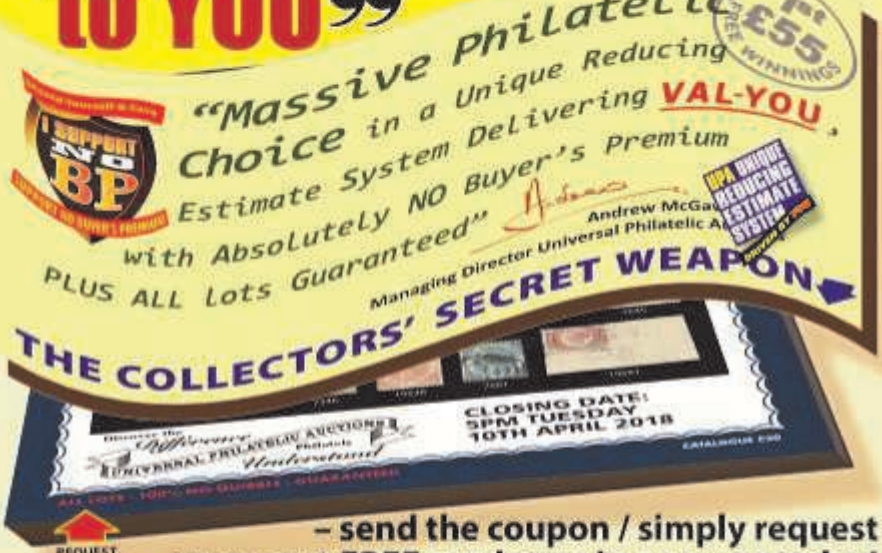

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UPA UNIQUE REDUCING ESTIMATE SYSTEM DRIVEN BY

Over-subscribed - the familiar story with London Internationals

It's always the same with international stamp exhibitions held in London – the events prove so popular that many want to exhibit, have stands, or simply visit.

So it is with London 2020, the international stamp exhibition being staged at the Business Design Centre in Islington London N1 0QH from Saturday 2nd May to Saturday 9th May.

Far more collectors wanted to exhibit than space available would allow, even though the exhibits will be changed halfway through the exhibition. Fortunately it has been possible to accept two-thirds of the entries: every effort has been made to ensure that the same percentage of frames has been accepted from each country and across every class.

A reminder that during the first half (2nd to 5th May) on display will be Postal History, Revenue, Open, Picture Postcards, Postal Stationery, Modern and part of Youth. From 6th May to 9th May there will be Championship, Traditional, Aerophilately, Thematic and the rest of Youth. One Frame exhibits will be shown alongside their parent class.

Literature will also form a major part of the competitive entries. Up to now the marking has been based on the traditional printed format, but with the increasing use of digital, a new marking scheme has been devised that will be used experimentally at London 2020.

The selection of the Jury is now underway. The FIP has been very helpful in supporting the organisers choose a balanced team that will work effectively over both halves of the week.

A small number of stands have become available as a result of a few traders now finding they can no longer attend. Anyone interested in booking a trade stand should check the latest availability at ***www.london2020.co/floor-plan***.

For those planning a trip to London, there is an excellent hotel booking facility – see the website ***www.london2020.co/hotels*.**

Philatelists from around the world are invited to become patrons to support the exhibition financially. Details can be found at ***www.london2020.co/supporters***. One major new benefit is now available to patrons, namely a preferential rate on bookings at a nearby hotel. This offer is limited, and thus subject to availability. Anyone potentially interested in this offer should email ***patrons@london2020.co*** for further details. This offer is also available to existing patrons.

Sign up via ***www.london2020.co/mailchimp/*** to receive newsletter updates about the progress of the exhibition and receive important announcements as they are made. Also encourage philatelic friends to sign up for this newsletter.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Bill Hedley

who was elected President of FEPA

in Monaco in November

FEPA (Federation of European Philatelic Associations} is a continental federation of 43 national European federations.

FEPA was founded in 1989. The first President was Dr Alan Huggins. He held the post until 1992. Bill is the first British President since then so this marks a recognition of the importance of Britain in the Philatelic World.

José Ramón Moreno congratulating Bill Hedley on his election

Bill had previously been Chairman of the International and Exhibitions Committee of ABPS and so represented us at FEPA Meetings, Exhibitions and Congresses. He also represented ABPS and so all of you at the recent FIP Congress (The Fédération Internationale de Philatélie) when Chris King stood for President but was defeated by Bernard Beston of Australia. Bill has stood down from the ABPS Committee, being succeeded by Simon Richards. Bill will now be active in promoting co-operation between European Federations and also will be involved on the wider international scale. This will entail much travelling but also the opportunity to see what other countries are doing and how they are promoting philately.

Bill has been elected to serve for four years. His predecessor, José Ramón Moreno, had served for eight years and was elected Honorary President. Both elections were unanimous.

There is no doubt that it is both a great honour for Bill and for British Philately.

You can read more of what is happening in the wider world of philately by visiting: ***www.fepanews.com*** and ***www.f-i-p.ch***

ABPS Handbook & Directory: updates

The details below are those which could affect your contacting a society or speaker. Other less immediate changes will appear in the details on the website abps.org.uk I will be grateful if you will send any more amendments or error notifications as soon as possible to me at ***editor@abps.org.uk*** *I will pass them on and/or use them as necessary. We apologise for any errors that have caused problems or distress. Please note the changes below.*

Specialist Societies

Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of GB (p 71): New Acting Secretary:
Lindy Bosworth ***atonybos@btinternet.com***

Local Societies

Camberley and District Stamp Club (p 102): New Secretary is:
Peter Grey - no email or telephone number given

Launceston Stamp Club (p 129): Meeting place has postcode PL15 8TN

South Midlands Stamp Club (p 155): New Secretary: Dr John Gledhill
01789 842112 ***jmgstamps@jgledhill.me.uk***
Meeting place has postcode CV35 8EN

Taunton Stamp Club (p 161) : Secretary's email: ***chris.catley@uwclub.net***
Delete website address

Woking and District Philatelic Society (p 169): New Secretary is
Brian Sheriff 01483 474975 ***bsheriff@live.com***

Full lists of all the amendments since 2016 are available on application to editor@abps.org.uk or see page 58.

They can be supplied by email free as a single item or as each separate year. For postal delivery please send a stamped addressed envelope to the Editor's address on page 58.

Result of a study examining the cancellations (or not) of ABPS membership envelopes in 2019

During 2018 and 2019 there was considerable correspondence and comment in the philatelic press that Royal Mail was treating the cancellation of envelopes in a less than professional way; specifically, using a ball point pen to 'scribble' across the stamps instead of cancelling them by machine or using a handstamp. I thought it might be interesting to examine the cancellations on the envelopes I received as the ABPS membership secretary and write a short paper on the results. This was not a scientific study nor was there any professional statistical analysis undertaken. This was just a straight count of the envelopes that I received as part of my Membership Secretary role.

My findings are as follows:

I received a total of 200 envelopes. Of these:

a. 3 were cancelled by biro or felt tip,

b. 7 had no cancellation at all,

c. 6 had just the top row of stamps cancelled but the 2nd row had no cancellation at all,

d. 10 had no cancellation other than the two rows of orange marks running horizontally across the envelope which I assume is the post code identification marks. Sometimes this line cut across a stamp, other times not,

e. 3 were placed into Royal Mail's cancellation machine upside down so that the stamps were not cancelled as the cancellation appeared on the bottom of the envelope, and

f. 171 envelopes were received with the stamps correctly cancelled.

It was clear to me that envelopes with multiple rows of stamps did challenge Royal Mail's cancellation machines. Further, even envelopes with properly placed single stamps seem to slip through Royal Mail's cancellation processes and checks.

Roughly 20 envelopes (10%) had stamps that had not been cancelled covering all or part of the postage rate. Surely this must be a worry to Royal Mail!

The biro still exists as a cancellation tool for Royal Mail. But 3 out of 200 envelopes is a small figure; however, it was disappointing to see that in the early weeks of 2020 I have already received two biro cancellations!

I am not sure what conclusions I can draw from this, other than the observation that unused envelopes with correct and neatly placed stamps seem to pass through Royal Mail's cancellation process without a problem – usually!

Barry Stagg

No report of your society? Why not send one to the editor? It could get you new members, and also gives hints on good speakers to other societies.

Even so, this is what some members have received. To the left, a 1st class large letter between 100 and 250g. Below right, a packet franked £1.87, correctly for over 250g and under 500g. Utter vandalism within an organisation that ought to know such a combination of stamps, and from someone nothing to do with philately and just sending a small book, probably using what stamps he had available. Bottom left - a total of £3.68 blue pencilled. *Bottom right - the reason why I personally enjoy collecting German used stamps - nicely cancelled! Editor*

Illustrations provided by Mervyn Benford

The parrot that belonged to the pirate?

During the 19th century a pirate sailing towards the Cayman Islands was cast into the sea, along with his parrot. Both alas drowned. The “Little Mermaid” by Hans Anderson tells us that living beings (including humans) can be turned into mermaids, mermen, merwomen etc by falling in the sea.

We all know about Sea Elephants, Sea Dogs, Catfish (not to be confused with meercats), Sea Cows, Sea Horses, Sea Slugs, Sea Cucumbers, Sea Eagles, Sea Dogs and so on, so a “Sea Parrot” of some sort sounds plausible. This would support the theory that the pirate’s parrot, when the pair of them drowned, quickly evolved into a “Parrot Fish” as shown here. We don’t know what happened to the pirate, but it seems unlikely that he would end up as a “merprivateer” as there is little demand when you have fins and flippers instead of fingers.

Ever since the tragedy described above, the Cayman Islands hold a remembrance ceremony for the drowned parrot, and issue a stamp to mark it every 1st April. *John Gledhill*

On the Club circuit

A roundup of events and speakers at local and national societies.

*Please send your reports direct to **the Editor**. We cannot undertake to include every report sent to us, and reserve the right to edit the reports we receive in the interests of space; short reports are best please. Full contact details for the societies are in the ABPS handbook and website. **Visitors are welcome** at all societies listed. When submitting photos please ensure that any people shown (especially children) have agreed to their photo appearing in this national newsletter (Data Protection and all that…).* "➔" Indicates contact information.

Amersham & District

During the last three months of 2019 we enjoyed another successful auction although the sales were not quite as high as the previous two. Also **Michael Pitt-Payne** gave us another of his high quality presentations *Aspects of Postal History* and **Peter Fernbank** displayed *Bahamas* shortly after that archipelago had been lashed by Hurricane Dorian. Peter's material was very interesting and included covers from the early 1940s dedicated to the Duke of Windsor when he was despatched there as Governor. We welcomed **David Frome** and **John Littlebury** representing Barnet & District PS on a return visit, when they exhibited *GB Postage Dues* and the very wide subject of *The Olympic Games*. 2019 ended on an informal note when members were invited to display anything they liked under the heading of *Southern Africa*. **Don Jeffreys** gave the main presentation showing some of his most impressive stamps of *Bechuanaland*. *Jim Drummond*

President Chris Marsh (right) awarding the Novices Cup to a relatively new member Hilton Ellison

Ayrshire

Alan Watson of Falkirk PS visited with *Winning Ways*. As a national judge he was well-qualified to talk about competitive philately, using one of his competition entries to demonstrate how to approach a subject and what judges expect. He had many catchphrases "judges are morons" - assume they know nothing about your topic, so explain things to them. Another was "it needs a plan". Judges follow it to see what you are trying to do and how successful you have been. The second half was more light-hearted with

displays of *Overprinted Post-and-Go labels* and frames on *Victoria Cross winners*, *Scottish and general heraldry*. We also entertained **Ronnie Breingan** of the Ayrshire Coin Club with an illustrated talk on *Scottish Banknotes*. Notes were as low as 1/- Scots until the Act of 1765 made any notes not payable on demand unlawful, and then any notes of less than 20/- Sterling. Now there are only three Scottish banks. We saw a wide range of notes from Ronnie's collection. Four members from Largs & District SC visited. **Roy Wickham** showed *International Mail entering Zanzibar*. Then **Ricky Boyd** had *D-Day Revisited* with mementos from his Normandy beaches visits and philatelic D-Day anniversary covers. **David Rossall** followed with *Poland from 1915 to 1922* when the nation re-emerged. **Willie King** ended with *Skeleton Postmarks*, especially from Ayrshire. These are temporarily created handstamps used in local offices for 5-6 days when the normal stamp has been sent away for repair. ➔ ***davidrossall@sky.com***

David Rossall

Basildon

Ian Reed and **David Milstead** braved the Dartford Crossing and atrocious weather to give us a fascinating evening. Ian showed the *Postal History of the Channel Islands*. He started with Guernsey in 1775 with the St Malo service. Next he showed Jersey from 1795 to 1870, including an 1841 Penny Black used in Jersey. David took us to the *Coronation of King Edward VII* in 1902 with an impressive array of mementos and material, including some for the original event, postponed due to the King's illness. At November's Members' Displays on

David Milstead and Ian Reed with their certificate

Animals, **Karen Morris** made her maiden display with *Animals, Birds and Fishes*. **Ian McElwain, Maggie Thompson** (*Big Cats)* and **Claude Crowder** (*Fauna of Australian Antarctic Territory*) supported her. Later **Don Davies** returned to update us on the *Latest Discoveries of Forged British Machins*. He continued with an insight into the *Origins and History of the British Comic Seaside Postcard*, including the efforts in some resorts after WWII to suppress them by censorship. The local censors were inconsistent. Cards approved in some towns were banned in others. Early December was *Stamp Collectors' Question Time* which **Len Stanway** chaired, ably assisted by RPSL Expert Committee members **Charlie Mead** and **Maggie Thompson**. 1919 ended with our *Festive Night* and *Tomex Quiz*, named for late members **Albert Thomas** and **Doug Hex**. Last year's winner **Len Stanway** was Quizmaster. **Charlie Mead** won with 27 marks, followed by **Ian McElwain** and **Claude Crowder**. Then came the generous repast provided by members.

From *Basildon Philatelist*

Bolton

At our October meeting **Alan Green** gave a display of *Malta, Local Post to Air Mail in 75 years*. On 26th October we held our Annual Stamp Fair, and also hosted the Northwest Federation Annual Convention. November was our fourth Auction of the year. Over 400 lots were offered to room and postal bids. December was the Christmas Social Evening. Members are asked to display nine sheets on any subject, part 2 is competition, sheets on *The letter R*. This was won by **David Brigden**. Any member of any ABPS society is invited to bid in any of our Auctions ➔ Secretary, Graham Travis 07939056421. *Howard Anderson*

Bromley & Beckenham

November and December have been particularly busy months at BBPS. Apart from our annual Table auction, November's highlight was **Hugh Osborne**'s gold medal-winning exhibit of *Falkland and South Georgia* from Stockholmia20 earlier in the year. A week later five clubs met at BBPS for our annual Display Evening, each bringing 3 frames of 12 sheets on a wide variety of subjects. Kingston PS was attending for the first time this year so it was fitting that **Roger Niven** was the winner of the popular vote with his display of *The Vikings.* He went home with a bottle of bubbly. The next week

Ron Burn thanking Hugh Osborne

was our President's Evening and this time **Ron Burn** showed a comprehensive display of *Gough Island*, particularly the 1955 Scientific Survey Expedition with photos, press cuttings and the working of its temporary post office franking collectors' covers. In the second part Ron showed us photos, covers and documents chronicling his visit to Tristan and most of its islands - Gough, Inaccessible, Middle, Nightingale etc. This was followed by festive cheer and refreshments. Our big event for 2020 is our Fair on 18th April when we will again play host to the Kent Federation for its Federation Day and AGM. We shall also have a table at London 2020 on the Wednesday and would be delighted to meet some of our "up-country" members. *David Rennie*

Your society information?

Please let the ABPS Secretary know of any changes to the details, including the information on the ABPS website about your society. Contact details are on p 58. Please tell your Federation Secretary too.
Also if you want changes in times, venue, website or email addresses and telephone numbers of your secretary to appear in the Amendments List - send them to the Editor - details also on p 58.

Burnley & District

We began our new season in September with a Latest Acquisitions Night and had a special cake made to celebrate 50 years of membership of the Society by **Derek**, **Sarah** and **Peter**. We had talks throughout the latter part of the year on *Railways*, *Yorkshire*, *Egypt*, *Edinburgh* and *The Netherlands*. This was interspersed with two Society visits made to Rochdale in October and Leeds in November. Both will reciprocate in March 2020 with visits to Burnley. Over the winter months we plan to entertain ourselves with *A Letter S T U night*, *An Answer On A Postcard*, and *Local Post* as everyone must have received something by mail so no excuses not to show.

Barry Evans

Derek, Sarah and Peter cut into their 50-year celebration cake

Cambridge

In early November we held the first of our two competition evenings. The Postal History section was won by **Simon Kelly** with his entry for *Express Mail*. In the Great Britain section **Peter Morton** came first with his entry on the *1879-1880 Perkins Bacon Tender Issues* and in the Open Class **Simon Kelly** won with his *Harriet Martineau*. During the judging, **Richard Husband** entertained us with an interesting display of *GB perfin*. Later **Joseph Cottrial** from Warwick & Warwick gave a power point display of *Interesting Items offered over a period of over 30 years to the auction house*. The latter included photocopies of stamps and covers lodged with the auction house and for many of them a brief history of the item. Included were 1/- early Cape of Good Hope, a pair of 5/- Oil River stamps on cover, and a block of the Inverted Jenny from the USA. More unusual items included a collection of Valentine Cards, Notice to Postmasters for the 1d black and 2d blue line engraved issues, and a collection of London Christmas Cards. The firm also deals in cigarette cards, medals and coins.➔

info@cambridgephilatelicsociety.co.uk

Peter Morton

Chelmsford & District

After our excellent Centenary Lunch we enjoyed a members' evening of presentations as a celebration of our centenary. The great variety of material included a display of *Centenary Issues from 1941 Celebrating the Existence of Hong Kong as a British Territory*, *Stamps on Swiss postcards going back to the early 1900s* and stamps from *Scandinavian countries*, *Germany* and *Russia through its various Incarnations*. After a birthday cake and a traditional Norwegian apple cake (kindly supplied by one of our members originally from Norway) we saw displays from the

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Club's archives as well as *Stamps/ Envelopes for 11th November 1919* covering the first airmail service from Croydon to Paris and the first flight from the Belgian Congo to the UK. Finally there were pictorial *Postcards of Chelmsford and Great Baddow*, highlighting the changes that have occurred over the years. **Stuart Henderson** from Ilford successfully entertained us under the heading *Stuart Henderson Entertains*. He started with *Covers displaying British and Empire Propaganda during and post WWII* followed by *Weather Stations and their postal services in Canada's Northwest Territories*. Then we saw advertising initiatives from *New Zealand* and *Belgium* followed by *Swiss publicity tourist labels*, *Covers from the inter-war years relating to Aviation Events* and *Stamps by Harrisons the printers for a London Stamp Exhibition* as samples in a successful attempt to be employed by the GPO. Our last 2019 meeting was eight members' displays giving a very varied and interesting programme.

➔ Dave Everard on 01245 465506 or ***davideverard@live.com***

Dave Everard

Croydon

Brian Asquith and **Frank Simpson** agreed, at short notice, to provide our 8th October displays. Brian started with *Ethiopian Air Mails* and followed with *Modern Postal History* or *From the Waste Paper Basket***,** being mail which arrived at home and work over many years. These included unusual markings such as "Missent to Manila" on a cover from the USA properly addressed to him at home and finished with a sheet containing 200 x £2 QEII stamps cancelled with 1988 Blackpool hand stamps. He continued with *Brunswick aka Braunschweig*. The 4 x ¼ stamps of 1837 from the old German state were divisible into quarters to deal with three different currencies and postal rates. In late October we welcomed **Cliff Hurst** and **Ray Houghton** from Eltham & Woolwich PS. Cliff started with *Russia* from Imperial Russia until the 1980s. The themes included mushrooms, helicopters and World Football Cup 1982. Ray followed with *A Miscellany* including Swiss Soldier Stamps, kangaroos, the Swedish Peace set and a selection of Illustrated Lighthouse sheets. At our November meeting **Roger Morrell** showed his *WWI Salonika Campaign*. This, aka the Macedonian Campaign, started in the Autumn of 1915 when the allies assisted Serbia against the attacks by Austro-Hungary etc. Roger showed examples of mail to and from all the participants including Red Cross and POW mail. There were over 50 BFPOs

Roger Morrell on The Salonika Campaign

in Salonica. We saw mail to and from POWs and postcards of aircraft, battleships, camps, troops and donkeys, the main means of transport.

Graham Harker

Dundee & District

In October we welcomed distinguished philatelist **John Sussex RDP FRPSL**. John's topic was *Modern British Postal History from 1952 to the Present Day*. He noted that over 30 years there were 28 changes of postal rates. One parcel cover on display had postage due stamps to the value of £99.97. John explained the various Postal Services including Registered Mail, International Recorded Delivery, Special Delivery, Recorded Delivery, Royal Mail Signed For and Advice on Receipt labels. Also shown were Express Service labels and Registration labels. John concluded with examples of Special Delivery Machins. In November we saw *Sudan Censorship* from **Paul Stephens** of Perth PS. He included examples of re-sealing labels, handstamps where mail had not been opened and rare

Paul Stephens with Sudan Censored material

RAF censorship. There were items from French Sudan with the majority of civilian mail opened. Covers on display also had a horseshoe cancellation to show that they had to be flown via this alternative route during the war. We congratulated our fellow member **Francis Podger FRPSL** on being awarded the

THATCHAM AND DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY
(Founded in 1966)

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Graeme Stewart, (secretary).

Research Medal by The Revenue Society in recognition of the work done in producing *Straits Settlements Revenue Stamps, 1867 to 1902, The Postal Museum De La Rue Archive*. Edinburgh PS visited with four different presentations by **Irene Catto**, **Steve Cowles**, **Sid Morgan** and **Bob Catto**. In December three members tied to win the One Sheet Rosebowl Competition and Recent Acquisitions. Well done, **Norman Kelso, Colin Rochester and Charles Lloyd**. *Colin Campbell*

Ferndown & West Moors

Filling a last-minute programme gap four members of Southampton PS came to the rescue. **Julian Jones** opened with *Speeding up Transatlantic Mail*. This concentrated on the period from 1785, but mainly from the 1890s to early 20th century. A major endeavour was to reduce mail on/off ship times, and some ingenious developments are noted, including planes scooping mail bags by hook, airships (up to Hindenburg) and on-board seaplanes with catapulting facilities. Julian's study was well supported with various marks, hand and tax stamps, rates and surcharges, plus a sizeable and fascinating collection of covers/postcards, where consideration was given up to 1935. **Len Yendell** presented *Church Architecture* including stamps, covers and postcards, miniature sheets, photos and postmarks. The emphasis was on European architecture, focussed mainly on abbeys and cathedrals. Then **Mike Batty** showed his personal theme of *Bishop's Waltham*, his Hampshire village. Starting in the early 1700s, this postal history display offered numerous pre-stamp mail items, both inward and outward, including much fascinating correspondence. Then he examined wartime mail including censored and Atlantic mail and POW items. Finally **Mike Vokes** showed *Lighthouses on Stamps*. From Argentina to Ireland to Russia, with scores of other locations included. Early exposure to lighthouses as a child had set the seeds of what was to be a passionate lifelong philatelic interest. In November **Hugh Jefferies MBE** presented members with glimpses of a fascinating Stanley Gibbons' resource - sizeable 'frozen in time' 1950's A-Z collection of philatelic terms. *Paul Barry*

Postcard addressed to Crewkerne and posted onboard the westbound America Line's St Louis in August 1903
Postage paid: 2¢ UPU postcard rate
Departure Southampton 29th August
Arrival New York 4th September

Grimsby & District

With the New Year starting, it is good to reflect over the past six months. We have had the pleasure of hosting four displays from visiting speakers - **Tony Bosworth** with his *1936 Olympic Games*, **Peter Wain**'s eclectic mix of *Post Office memorabilia*, **Richard** and **Yvonne Wheatley** with *Tales from a Lioner* and *GB Railways* respectively,

and **Graham Winters** showing an *Aspect of Ceylon*. These were interspersed with displays from various club members on a wide range of topics: from the *British Antarctic*, *Africa*, *Nauru overprints* and *United Nations* to *Finches* and *The Police*. Final reflection over the last half-year must be of the club's annual charity auction held in aid of St Andrews Hospice which raised a total of £3300. Thanks to the organisers, club members, people who donated all the lots and the bidders, both successful and unsuccessful, who made this auction a success. Looking on to the future we have more guest speakers and local members displaying, a visit from the Bridlington society and club auctions on the 18th March and the 15th July both open to outside bidders. Further information and catalogues can be obtained from Chris Dodsworth 06549 281651. We wish the philatelic community a Happy and Prosperous New Year and hope that you find the stamp you have been after for ages. *Mike Webb*

Halifax

The 2019-2020 season continued with the second of a series of two demonstrations by President **Mike Roberts** (Ilkley) and **Max Smith.** Part two expanded on the theory of how to look after and conserve items in collections. Mike showed examples of damaged covers and stamps that he had previously been given by society members demonstrating how the improvements were carried out. Max explained that faults/damage could be categorised and the subsequent work on similar faults could be undertaken with care by members on their own material. He provided members with pieces of "smoke sponge" demonstrating how it should be used. In December we had a display of *Zimbabwe* by **Douglas Armitage**. He outlined the recent history of Zimbabwe leading to the economic decline. This formed the basis of the display of postal history for 1980 to 2009 with particular reference to periods of high inflation and its impact on postal services. Douglas explained that his meeting members of the Zimbabwe Philatelic Society who had assisted him in obtaining material and postal rates had given him an interest in forming his display, which demonstrated the rapid and frequent changes in rates and currency exchange rates entering into the hyper-inflation period 2004 and to the suspension of the currency in 2009. After a pre-Christmas three-round Quiz on Philately, with four rotating teams taking part, conducted by the other **Mike Roberts** (Huddersfield) we were sent on our way for Christmas.

Adrian Lee

Harrogate

In October **Stephen Parkin** showed *King Edward VIII*. He started with the 4 stamps, including original artwork. He followed on with the story of the Prince and King illustrated by Commonwealth stamps. The three November meetings were very different. **James Podger** brought *Welsh Postal History*. This was mainly pre-stamp but had some 1d black covers. It was striking how little was written on each sheet. The vital explanation of interest was written briefly at the foot, with Internet images alongside the covers in explanation. Next two members, **Paul Tennyson** and **Charles Usher**, produced *A Latin American Bonanza* and *Sweden* respectively. We saw the smallest stamp in the world and learnt about the

War in the Pacific. Charles had a unique type of soldiers' mail with a stamp for the reply on the inner flap of the envelope. Finally **Frank Walton** displayed *GB Wildings*. We learnt why there are two different shades of 2d brown and why some white papers fluoresce and others don't – the paper-

Frank explains a finer point to your editor

making was affected by gritty rainwater. He followed on with *GB Postal Stationery* from which the designer Cecil Thomas earned well by being responsible for every alteration. 2020 opened with **David Druett** and **Peter Rix** sharing the evening displays. David had *Japanese POW mail* from and to his uncle, captured at Singapore. It was a heart-rending story. Peter told us of the lives and work of *Two Engineers*, Isambard Kingdom Brunel and Barnes Wallis. It was a fascinating double display. *Bill Tait*

Hereford & Mid-Wales

We have enjoyed a busy and successful winter season. In November, member **Vicki Archard** displayed her unusual collection of *Stamp Margins* utilising all of our frames and a good number of tables besides! We were introduced to the distinctive marks of various printers, those used for alignment, those associated with different printing methods as well as the marks used for reducing the opportunities for stamp forgery. December is traditionally the president's evening and **Paul Olver** did us proud with examples from his collections illustrating every letter of the alphabet, something that could be appreciated by the non-collecting guests present. Amazingly there was still time to enjoy festive refreshments. We also added a Philatelic tree to the 79 others forming a Christmas Tree Festival in Ross-on-Wye in December. The afternoon meeting in January was entitled *Crossing The Equator* and members produced displays from all 13 countries with territory at zero degrees latitude. Other interpretations included *London to Johannesburg airmails*; the *Handover of the Olympic flag from Northern to Southern hemispheres* (London to Rio de Janeiro) and even an envelope featuring the *Homage to Neptune* ceremony when a ship crosses the Equator. *Janet Nelson*

Greg Brunt "Crossing The Equator"

Huddersfield

The 2019-2020 season continues at a new venue - Lindley Liberal Club, Lindley, Huddersfield HD3 3EQ. The meetings are in the afternoon from 1.30. We have recently enjoyed a visit from **Robert** and **Daphne McMillan** for Robert to give a display on the *Falkland Islands*. The display showed the first postmarks used there in 1869, "Black Frank", followed by "Red Frank" in 1876. We saw examples of the first QV monarch's head postage stamps issued in 1878 which used a portrait used for Revenue stamps, ½d green, 2d purple, 2½d blue and 4d black, printed in sheets of 60 (10x6), followed by the 2/6 and 5/- High Values. Examples of early cancellations 3bar FI used on the Islands together with Rum cork obliterators were displayed with many types including the private "Bainbridge Cork". Robert guided us through the various monarchs' issues with many examples of adhesive stamps and postal history of the Islands with an interesting series generated during the Argentinean Invasion of the Falklands from both British and Argentinean troops. Members are able to enjoy a range of refreshments available at the Club venue and we have enjoyed new members joining us with a small rise in numbers attending. The venue also affords access to people with poor mobility. *Adrian Lee*

Huntingdonshire

At our meeting in November **David Wilson** displayed *Postage Dues from ½d to 5s*. He started off by explaining that France was the first country to use Postage Due labels in 1859 for underpaid mail. He then went on to show examples of hand stamp postage dues on covers from around 1914. When the postage rate was increased on the 3rd June 1918 from a halfpenny to a penny many people were still using the halfpenny stamps as they had not realised the rate had gone up and so their letters were stamped postage due. We were shown examples of hand stamps explaining why extra postage was needed. Another example was bundle postage where companies sent out large bundles of mail but did not apply enough to cover the cost. Also examples were shown of mail whose stamp was not valid in the country it was posted from. When Rhodesia declared independence the British government declared their stamps invalid so anything sent to the United

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Kingdom became postage due. We saw some examples. The display ended with examples on mail of the To Pay labels issued on the 15th February 1994. These were only in use for 18 months when a new system of collecting underpaid mail came into operation. This was a well thought-out knowledgeable display. *David Birkert*

Kingston & District

In October **Michael Warwick** introduced us to *Cinderella stamps*. There were poster stamps, Terry Pratchett fantasy stamps, Swiss soldier stamps and many more – all non-postal authority stamps. Michael continued with *The Postal History of Wimbledon and Raynes Park*. There were postcards, postmarks, Wimbledon Common, the Theatre and Tramways – fascinating. We hosted the Fair at Claygate later that month. There was a steady stream of visitors to visit dealers and see the exhibitions. The Mason Cup was won by Woking & District PS. We came a creditable second. Well done to all who contributed in any way. November's meeting was dedicated to *Booklets and Miniature Sheets*. Five members had brought displays. **Eddie Weeks** produced *GB Prestige Booklets* with some scarce 31p and 34p stamps. **Chris Oliver** followed with *Miniature Sheets from South Africa*. These began in 1936 with the next not until 1975. **Roger Niven** displayed miniature sheets depicting the *Art of Spain*, which had been supressed under the Franco regime as being decadent. **Susan Olive**r showed *booklets of the Faeroe Islands* of various shapes and sizes. Our last display was by **Brian Sole** - *Guernsey booklets* included the "smiling face of Guernsey" designed by Robin Ollington. Brian had met Robin and had displayed this booklet alongside Robin's display of his original artwork. From *Kingston Newsletter*

Largs & District

In October **Rev Colin Caskie**, of Perth PS and this year's President of ASPS, brought a two-part display. His first round showed early *Jamaica*, interestingly displayed in value sequence, with the pineapple watermark which represents the local staple crop. The second round covered his interest in the *Development of Railways and how they changed and improved society*. He concentrated first on the Highland Sorting Carriage between Perth, Helmsdale and Dingwall, pointing out that even working by candlelight there were very few sorting errors. The next section covered the Galloway Sorting Tender, from 1871 to 1940, and he finished with a bit of fun with stamps showing various aspects of railways, from rack-and-pinion to double-decker trains. Our next meeting was *A Letter Lottery*. A total of 17 members showed a wide range of collecting interests and provided a very varied evening. In November we had a postcard night. **Ricky Boyd** started with *Arran*, followed by **Gordon Shepherd** with *Year End Thoughts*. **Dennis Gray** with *Seaside Humour*, **Jim Irving** *Scenes of South Africa*, and John Chalmers *Germany postal stationery cards from 1873 to 1920.* **Robert Watt** had *An Assortment* then **Bill Clark** *East African railways*, and finally **David Rossall** with *Fairlie*. December began with **Bill Clark** on *East Africa*, showing a miscellany of items, amassed over the years but not written up before. There was WWI, the Empire Flying

I Spy…

A selection of images sent from clubs and societies. No prizes for spotting yourself …

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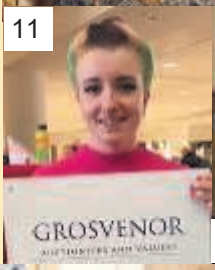

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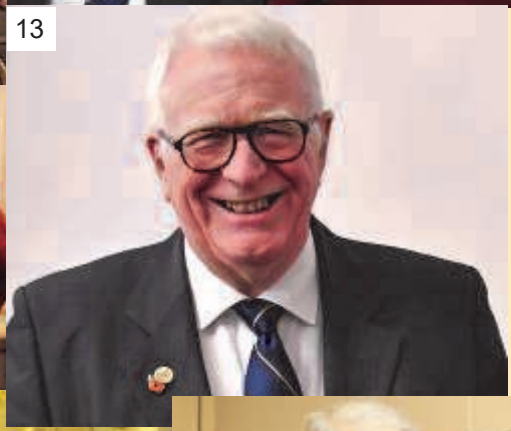
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Bill Clark being thanked by Robert Watt

Boat Service, WWII censor marks, the Mau Mau troubles and more.

➔ ***davidrossall@sky.com***

David Rossall

Launceston

We held our AGM and Autumn Auction in October. **Des Kent** reported our sound financial position and that the "holiday" from subscriptions for the coming year continues. The Auction of 279 lots realised £445.60 with 5 Canadian Year books making £132. In November **Ed Caesley** brought his display of *The Coronation of King George VI.* Following the untimely abdication of Edward VIII, the Post Office had just five months to prepare and issue commemorative stamps for George VI's Coronation as 12th May 1937 remained as originally scheduled for Edward VIII's Coronation. Ed's display extends to some 128 sheets of Coronation stamps from the 47 issuing countries, many with the standard three values, and includes numerous photos, articles, labels, first day covers, original correspondence and all manner of interesting postal ephemera. The Christmas Luncheon on 1st December at Trethorne was enjoyed by members and guests. At the final meeting member **David Richards** entertained us with a display of his *Sporting Interests*. His presentation featured four separate displays namely, *Rugby Union*, *Golf*, *Petanque* and *Cricket in the West Indies*. The origins and history of each of the four sports and their unique worldwide growth through both national and international participation and competition is displayed on commemorative stamps, correspondence, photographs, articles, labels, first day covers and all manner of postal ephemera. The display comprised over 120 A4 sheets of stamps and information and was viewed with considerable interest by members.

Howard Hamblin

Leeds

David Horner produced an excellent display of *GB King George V Seahorses* in September. It was not just splendid issues from Great Britain but surcharges for the Irish Free State, British Post Offices in Levant and Morocco, Nauru, and Bechuanaland Protectorate. In October **Chris Phillips** showed us papers, photographs and memories of *Newlands Road Philatelic Society, Tunbridge Wells*. He had founded it as a boy in the 1940s. His achievement was getting celebrities in the philatelic world to grace the society. Later that month **Stephen Holder** exhibited *Art Deco and Art Nouveau Cards*. We enjoy having visiting philatelic societies and the visit by four members of Burnley Philatelic Society was no exception in mid-November. All the displays were stimulating, my tops being *Picture Postcards* and *Post Office Posters from Manchester in the mid-Victorian period*. 16th and 17th November was the annual Pudsey Fair,

a grand affair for the society and dealers. Later we had a poignant display from **Richard Jagielski** showing the collection of his late father **Edmund** on *Post of Polish Exiles in Russia WWII*, sad at the fate of Poland followed by the journey through the Middle East, East Africa, Monte Cassino to his home in exile in Bradford. The year ended with the President's Evening from **Paul Kellett** in December dwelling on two main themes: *The Pictorials of 1935* and *The Health Stamps since 1929*.

Michael Waugh

Four visitors from Burnley having bravely crossed the border

Captions for pages 30 and 31

1) Ron Burn presents a bottle of champagne to Ron Niven at Bromley & Beckenham
2) Victoria Lajer (MD of Philately for Stanley Gibbons) at York
3) Richard Wheatley FRPSL from the Hotels of Egypt
4) Dr Seija-Riita Laakso at the Royal
5) John Sussex at Dundee
6) Josh Barber of Spinks at York
7) Oscar Young of Stanley Gibbons at York Stamp Fair
8) Michael Farrant FRPSL and Tony Bosworth FRPSL happy at the South East regional at the Royal
9) Cliff Hurst brings Russia to Croydon
10) The Gentlemen of Southampton enjoying their Christmas Social.
11) Constanza Dennis of Grosvenor at York Stamp Fair
12) Learning how to judge varied competition entries at the seminar in Hitchin
13) Dr Patrick Reid FRPSL after his display of Tasmania
14) Irene Catto, Steve Cowles, Sid Morgan and Bob Catto from Edinburgh visit Dundee
15) CISS member Leo Mayr receives the Joan Flood Salver from President Gerald Marriner
16) Colin Rochester, Norrie Kelso, David Millar (President of Dundee) and Charles Lloyd with the Rosebowl
17) Chelmsford celebrate 100 not out at The County Hotel
18) Ray Houghton with his Miscellany at Croydon
19) Francis Podger of Dundee with his Revenue Medal and a copy of the winning book
20) South Midlands members celebrate the club's 10th anniversary

Are you reluctant to be photographed? Many reports arrive but not many have photographs to accompany them - please can we have a few more?

Luton & District

In November we were entertained by **Mike Kentzer** showing *A Trip through Scarborough & Whitby* and the railway linking them, followed by **Terry Wagg** displaying *Unusual GB KGVI postal history*. In December we held our winter auction. As our membership is dwindling we decided to invite postal bids and also visitors from other societies. We were delighted to receive numerous postal bids and to welcome members from both Milton Keynes and Stevenage societies. Over 70% of lots were sold and a new sales record was set! The New Year started in January 2020 with members' displays on any subject. Material shown included *Antarctica, Sudan*, *British Islands*, *British postal events*, *Fossils* - both real and on stamps, and rounding off with *Early Swiss mail and postal stationery*.

Fin O'Donoghue

Maidstone & Mid-Kent

In October **Brian Sole FRPSL** arrived, not on his bike but by car, and showed us a remarkable thematic display *Go By Cycle*. This covered the history of the cycle up to the present day. It was followed by a display of the *London Coffee Houses* by **Ian Marshall FRPSL,** which included mail back to the 1600s. With Ian's knowledge came a fascinating history lesson on how coffee houses originated and the service they provided to merchants. Ashford (Kent) PS visited in November and we saw displays of *Early GB Postal History*, *Hong Kong Machins* and *GB Self-Adhesive issue*, *Modern Australia* and *Rhodesia*. This was followed by our Bi-Annual Auction. In December we were pleased to welcome **Mike Thompson** who displayed *Aden from GVI to the 1970s*. Our morning meetings have featured *France*, *Members' Displays* and *GB used Abroad*. The second half of our season will feature displays of *Russia*, *Law & Order*, *Ethiopia*, *Haiti*, *Titanic*, *Revenues*, Competitions and members' displays. ➔ 01622 675784

Brian Stonestreet

Mid Sussex

To our satisfaction (and relief) only one member failed to renew their annual subscription this year. Despite this attendance at meetings has not been as buoyant as in recent years, age,

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illness and a reluctance to drive at night all being contributing factors. Our opening meeting saw seven of the eleven members present providing a wide variety of displays. This was followed at our next meeting with a visit from Croydon PS, our two guests displaying *Early Mail from Hanover* and *Wakefield Mail*. Unfortunately our speakers for the next two meeting were unable to come and stepping in first at the last minute was **John Terry** from East Grinstead with his display of *German WWII Occupation Mail*. Two members stepped forward at the next meeting, **John Bushell** with a display of *Chile's Antarctic Stations Mail* and **Jim Etherington** showing *WWII BEF Mail*. Returning to our published programme, next came **Charles Kaye** with a display of postcards charting *The Story of Early British Ocean Liners leading up to and during WWI*. The transport theme was continued by our next speaker, **Richard Hewitt** with a display of *Scottish Aviation from 1933 through to the present*. Three members from Worthing PS entertained us at our penultimate meeting followed by a 'double act' at our final meeting before Christmas, **Anne Stammers** showing a thematic display entitled *Rocks to Riches* and **Bob Clements** giving an account of *Early GB*. *Jim Etherington*

Morecambe & District

We started the 2019-20 season with three very good presentations. We were introduced to *Transcaucasia during the British Occupation* by **Mark Everis**. The following meeting was an *Introduction to the Early Years in Czechoslovakian Postal System* from **Yvonne Wheatley**. These two excellent meetings were followed by our 37th Annual Auction, which seems to have been its usual success. **Philip Wharmby** then presented his display on *Churchill*. We enjoyed all of these and appreciate the efforts and knowledge of our speakers. We then had the pleasure of welcoming **Tim Giddings** who spoke on *Germany 1933 to 1950*. He described the postal progress including the difficulties of the immediate post-War period. He included some details of the local postal issues. Our next meeting was a One-Page Competition and Christmas Quiz. We began the New Year with **Dave Rothery** on *Anglo-Egyptian Sudan*. This followed the introduction of Posts in Sudan by General Kitchener up to the 1950s. The second part illustrated the introduction of the Air Mails from the UK through Egypt and Sudan, through Africa and on to the Far East. We would be pleased to receive material for sale in our Annual Auction – the next is on Saturday 10th October. Having lost some vendors recently we would appreciate new ones. ➔ Frank Colling 01524 733589 or John Garrett 01931 715600.

Frank Colling

Oxford

We were grateful to **Martin Farr** and **Graeme Stewart** of Thatcham PS for their displays of *Chinese Myths and Legends*, *Hiroshige's Tokaido Road*, and *Post Boxes*. Later, members **Alan Cowie** and **Bill Jackson** displayed the contrasting philatelic histories of *Iraq* and *France*. **Colin Searle** of Stratford on Avon PS then treated us to a lovely display of *Gibraltar*, using PowerPoint slides to provide close up analysis of stamps without our needing our illuminated magnifying glasses! December contained three events. First, members took the letter "O" in all

sorts of ways to show *Obock, Oceanic Settlements, Officials, Oil, Oil Rivers, Olympics, Oman, Orange River Colony, Osterreich, Overprints, Owls* and concluded with a charming display by **Ray Mutton** of the *Oxford High Street*. Second, our now well-established Christmas lunch at the Royal British Legion allowed members to have an excellent meal before facing the customary tricky but rewarding quiz. The month concluded when our longest serving member, **Bob Spencer**, gave a fascinating account of *Early Spain up to 1939*. The first meeting of 2020 was a morning one with members displaying on *Space and Telecommunications*, which proved there are a lot of space stamps to collect! Displays included *Sputnik and Apollo missions*, *the Space Race between America and the Soviet Union/Russia* then joint issues between them, *Nigeria in the Space Age*, as well as *Radio*, *Telephone* and *GB's television-related stamps of Dr Who, Thunderbirds*, and *Wallace and Gromit*!

Dr Simon Heap

Perth

75 years young! Perth Philatelic Society was founded in 1945 and will celebrate its 75th anniversary this year by hosting the 91st Congress of The Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies on 17th and 18th April. We will welcome dealers and collectors from around the country to our own backyard, proud that the national Congress has returned once again to the Dewars Centre in Perth. We have produced a special Congress envelope showing John Smeaton's historic Perth Bridge of 1771; a miniature sheet with views of the Fair City; and a special postcard depicting two centuries of

Perth postmarks – including the famous Perth 'Lamb ' cancel of 1751, which will also adorn the Royal Mail postmark to be used at Congress. We also host the Congress dinner and guest lecture. As host society our members will display 60 frames of stamps and postal history alongside the national competition. We meet fortnightly at the West End Bowling Club in the city. ➔ 01738 813548, or ***perthphilatelic.secretary@gmail.com***

Norman Watson

Poole & Bournemouth

In December our members' displays were on *Literature and/or History.* **Chris Wheeler** opened with a frame of mainly individual stamps on *Writers of Poems, Music and Books* from around the world. **Ken Parrott** then put up a display of *Stamps and Miniature Sheets from Malta* which illustrated the country's history. **Mark Mates** followed with a summary of the *Life of Bolivar and his Conflicts against the Spanish Colonialists in South America* illustrating the esteem he still

commands 200 years later. The relatively rare miniature sheet of Bolivar in Rome making his oath to rid South America of the Spanish was particularly striking. **Rick Willmott** had chosen the *Czechoslovakian Novelist and Story-teller Franz Kafta*. **Shirley Kemp** used stamps to trace the *Early History of GB* with the Doomsday Book and Arthurian Legends before moving on to *Characters from Dickens*, ending with *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. **Michael Mawdsley** concentrated on GB stamps featuring *GB authors and their works* followed by **Tony Arnold** who displayed the *Covers of 100 Penguin and Pelican books* covering a wide range of authors and subjects. After the break, **Wendy Buckle** put up a frame of mixed, mainly GB philatelic material on *Books for Children*. **Alan King** covered *Australia and France* using stamps to track the history of their production. He closed with a delightful miniature sheet depicting Tintin. Finally, **Ted Kemp** showed *Turkey during WWI* with a well written-up display. Many examples of the early issues were exhibited. *Chris Wheeler*

Redcar & Cleveland

At the final meeting before Christmas it was the traditional President's wine and cheese party with philatelic quiz. This was a most enjoyable evening. The winners of the quiz were Messrs **Simms**, **Reynolds** and **Williams** seen here receiving the trophy from the President, **Phil Harriman** (on the right).

Geoff Reynolds

Rochdale

In November our guest speaker was **Max Smith**, a philatelic specialist on *19th century India*. Max detailed the time-line of the 1847 siege of Delhi during the Indian mutiny.
His talk was supported by original envelopes and letters, written by the key players in this drama. This siege was pivotal and successful. Should it have failed then India would have been lost to the British Empire. Our Christmas meeting began with *Covers from Royal Mail Ships which visited Malta*. *The French Revolution's (1798) unique calendar* was then explained which had a separate name for each day of the year. *Self-adhesive New Zealand stamps* followed, which were sold in rolls of 100 with advertisements between stamps. Examples were then displayed of the *2012 London Olympics commemorative coins* which inadvertently started the resurgent growth in coin collecting. The meeting ended with a discussion on *Early Christmas cards and post marks*. followed by our Christmas pie and pea supper. Everyone looks forward to our annual stamp quiz in January and the chance to win a prize. As always, members' entries were creative and often amusingly presented. Typical quiz "questions" included: five post marks from five British seaside resorts, five different positions of stamps on covers, Earliest dated bird stamp, Earliest philatelic item with a motoring theme. *Peter Grimshaw*

Scarborough

In September we learned a lot from **Trevor Wright**'s presentation on *The Life and Times of Lord Horatio Nelson* as seen on stamps, postcards and press cuttings. Trevor started from his

Trevor receiving his certifcate

genealogy and early life, his promotions and development as an officer, and naturally the Battle of Trafalgar. As a bonus we then saw Trevor's display of the many *Stamps designed for Royal Mail between 1962 and 2000 by David Gentleman*.

From *Scarborough Post*

Solihull

Paul Woodness started off our 2020 50th Anniversary year programme with the *President's Display*. Over the years Paul has assembled a number of diverse collections which he introduced by explaining some of the events which led up to his starting each of these. Many of us could relate to such small beginnings which can blossom into something quite remarkable; such is the joy of our hobby! Throughout his display, Paul explained how contact with other collectors through societies,

Paul Woodness with his display

both local and, in particular, national specialist societies, is a marvellous way to enhance one's knowledge and acquire more material. Paul demonstrated how what may appear to be a fairly unremarkable cover can turn out to reveal a fascinating story, not only of philately, but of historical events. Individual research on one's material is worth the effort and can be most rewarding. The evening was well attended and provided an excellent start to our new year. We are a thriving society with weekly meetings from September through to the end of April.

➔ 01564 776 879 or
www.solihullphilatelicsociety.org.uk

John Barker

South Midlands

Naturally the topic for our 10th anniversary meeting was "10th Anniversary". The actual members' displays (picking on "10" or "anniversary") comprised: *1066 Battle of Hastings*, *Zeppelins from the 1930s*, *British stamps from 2009*, *Jury summons covers from a collection started 10 years before*, *Malta 10/- stamps* and a remarkable *Malta cover bearing 40 farthing stamps, of course*

1902 Malta Blocks of 18 and 22 ¼d stamps to pay 10d on an OHMS Registered front. Using up the stock?

adding up to 10d, *British postal history from 1901-1910*, *Japan sheetlets 1999-2000 each having 10 stamps on it*, *1000th anniversary of Hungary*, *10th anniversary of the Antarctic Treaty*, *Hong Kong mail ships from 1910*, *Switzerland kindergarten themes*, and last but not least the Chairman's demonstration that *The number of known GB perfins on 1d lilacs had risen from 6978 to 7730 in the last 10 years*. ➔ 01789 842112 or ***www.sites.google.com/site/warwickshireps/smidsc***

John Gledhill

Southampton & District

The President's Evening when **Birthe King** came to talk about some *Aspects of Danish life during WWII and the post war period* was brilliant and very well presented. The material was superbly supported by her personal commentary. A great finish to another successful year. We are off to a tremendous start in 2020. The Thursday afternoon meeting has successfully moved to its new venue and at the first Tuesday evening meeting there were three new applications for membership and a total of 14 displays from members around *The Letter V*, including some very

Birthe King discussing Denmark in WWII with Roger Harris

lateral thinking ways of getting the letter into the title. Looking ahead over the next couple of months we are welcoming **Tony Davis** as a guest speaker in February and **Austin Mears** in April. In between those dates the Ferndown Society are visiting in March. So something for everyone! ➔ ***www.southamptondps.org.uk***, 02380 402194 or ***sec.sdps@gmail.com***

Eddie Mays

St Albans, Harpenden & District

For our October 2019 meeting, we were very pleased to welcome back **Lorraine Maguire** who gave us a fine display on *The Ships that linked New Zealand with Australia and with the UK*. Through postcards, ephemera and anecdotes, Lorraine told us the stories of vanished shipping lines, and brought to life everything from luxury travel before WWII to the experiences of "£10 Poms" after the war. In November, **Mick Bister** visited with *France 1929-79*. Beginning with the politics surrounding the 1929 Joan of Arc issue, Mike continued with the controversies around the stamps for the (very successful) Colonial

exhibition of 1931, the Resistance forgeries of the Petain stamps and the production of multi-coloured recess printed art stamps, with much more besides. It was an excellent and absorbing evening. The year concluded with the Christmas Social including the three-sheet competition, won by **Colin Smart** with *Jamaican flight covers from the 1930s*. During the autumn we introduced the idea of holding informal gatherings at local coffee venues one morning a month, to chat over stamps or other things. Held alternately in St Albans and Harpenden, these are in addition to our traditional evening display meetings. Particularly useful for those unable to get to evening meetings, we are continuing with these "informal gatherings" in 2020.

➔ ***www.stalbharpstampclub.org.uk***, ***p.mellor@btinternet.com*** or 01582 762284 *Peter Mellor*

Swindon

We had a very busy autumn programme beginning with a coach trip to London to visit Stampex. Back home we were entertained by **Jean** and **Crawford Alexander** with their *GB Heads & Tails*. The Federation 16 Page Competition followed with a good number of quality entries. **Barbara Borlase-Hendry** won with her excellent *The Cutting Edge of Sheffield*. Our next speaker was **Richard Stupples** with a superb display of *Barbados*, far more to the island than one imagines. **John Wand** stood in at the last minute with an enthralling display of *Nigeria*, a vast country with a fascinating history. Our last speaker for the year was **Keith Chadwick** with a grand display of his *Hong Kong Airmails*; every aspect of airmails was covered. It was an

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Aerophilatelist's dream display. For our Autumn Day Meeting held in November the theme was a 9-Page *Pot Pourri* display by members. We had twelve displays on a fascinating selection of subjects, no two alike. It was great fun, plus we were presented with another fantastic buffet lunch prepared and presented by **John Wand**. The Day Meetings are becoming very popular; maybe it is the lunch? We hold a monthly Stamp Fair on the first Saturday of the month which is also popular, with a great selection of dealers present. We are very busy preparing for another Swinpex event. This year it will be on Saturday 13th June. Please put the date in your diary or better still, come.

David Gibbon

Thatcham & District

In October we saw *Trees and Autumn Fall* from **Heather Lawn**, **Julie Keel**, **Martin Farr** and **Graeme Stewart** with the usual variety of members' displays. The next session was the Auction Night. Eight people with six apologies. **Graeme Stewart** and **Martin Farr** visited Oxford and showed *Postboxes* and *Tokaido Road and Chinese legends* respectively. November's Monday afternoon meeting on Explorations and Conquests involved **Nathan Gregory**, **Malcolm Hoskins**, **Heather Lawn**, **Bob Paterson, Martin Farr**, **John Shambrook**, **Neil Hatton**, **Dave Tanner** and **Graeme Stewart**. In mid-November **John Horsey** showed *The £5 Orange*. He filled two display boards and had a computer display programme projecting onto a large screen. He admitted that the stamp had become an obsession. The first sheet showed two of them used. The on-screen talk was about Telegraph stamps from 1850-70. After the individual companies were taken over by the Post Office new issues followed and the TELEGRAPH heading changed to POSTAGE. We saw colour trials, shades, varieties and forgeries and a whole host of data about corner letters, papers including blued ones, printings, handstamps and cancellation types, proofs, forgeries and postings. It was a fascinating evening. In December both meetings involved a Christmas quiz. Monday's displays were *Four of your Favourite Sheets*. We had presentations from ten members – plus mince pies, drinks and **Juliet Keel**'s Panto quiz. The evening quiz was on place names – won by Juliet. **Mike Smith** from Hampshire judged our competition entries and we enjoyed good food, drinks and company.

Martin Farr

John Horsey with his £5 Oranges

Wakefield

In October we held our bi-annual Auction sale which was well attended and successful. Later, members were invited to bring along displays relating to the letters *N, O & P*. Some very interesting collections appeared, including stamps, covers, postcards

and postal history, featuring themes such as *Pontefract postal history*, *Paraguay and Peru airmail covers*, *Philatelic Conventions*, *Palaces*, *Nursery Rhymes*, *Nigeria*, *Halfpenny Oranges* and *King George VI Nabha, Orchha and Patiala.* In November **David Horner** gave an excellent display of the *1924 British Empire Exhibition* and earlier related publicity. Along with some very interesting material, David gave a very knowledgeable history of the Exhibition's development from 1913 when it was first suggested, through to 1924 when it was opened by King George V. **David Druett** visited us at the beginning of December with his collection of *Postal Stationery cards to 1900*. These covered the world and exhibited messages and anecdotes which were both fascinating and entertaining. In mid-December we celebrated the Festive Season with a social evening including a buffet and members' displays covering many different topics. All of these displays were accompanied by very knowledgeable and enjoyable presentations which were very much appreciated by everyone present.

Julie Hitchcock

Watford & District

Our programme for 2019-2020 has certainly been eventful! After the October meeting was cancelled due to flooding, the November meeting went to plan when we welcomed back **Don Knight** with a display entitled *An Evening with Queen Victoria*. To the members' dismay, Don didn't come in drag, but he did show some wonderful postal history material from the period! From pre-adhesives to Penny Blacks and Penny Reds, and through to later issues, the evening was thoroughly enjoyed by the audience. On 12th November we held our annual society dinner. 14 of us enjoyed a lovely meal at the Blue Check restaurant in Bushey. Unfortunately the programme 'gremlins' struck again in December; the meeting had to be cancelled due to the hall being booked for a company meeting. January could have gone the same way due to the booked speaker being unwell. Our guest, **Richard Akers**, who should have displayed in October, showed us *Switzerland postal stationery* in the first half from the early issues to the 1970s. In the second half he displayed some excellent items of *French postal history*. Richard explained he only started collecting items sent from France to Switzerland, but the collection had then gone off on something of a tangent. We've all been there, Richard! ➔ 01923 243243 or ***watforddps@gmail.com*** *Wayne Cox*

West London

This season we have held revealing members' meetings themed on a variety of subjects. On 5th November we welcomed **Barry Feltham** to give his PowerPoint display *The Apollo Story* with some pages to back up his presentation. This proved to be a

Barry Feltham at West London

meeting with a difference which was thoroughly enjoyed by members and guests present. It is over fifty years since most of these epic journeys took place. Our December meeting was a social get-together for members and family. ➔ ***olivers.of_ham@virgin.net*** or ***sites.google.com/site/westlondonphilatelicsociety***

Chris Oliver

West Riding

Our 2019-2020 season of informal meetings continued with November meeting producing a series of members' displays of new items, with Philatelic items from **Ken Moody**, **Charles Squire,** and **Adrian Lee**. December meeting brought an informal quiz with 30 random stamps to be matched to the quiz master's list of features to be contained on the stamps. **Graham Winters** brought along his zip-up ABPS publicity feature outlining the benefits of ABPS membership. **Mike Roberts** has published the January 2020 auction catalogue, The next auction will take place in July - catalogue available by contacting Mike on 07885839622. Meetings commence at 11 am at Lindley Liberal Club Huddersfield HD3 3EQ, refreshments being available at about 12.20 pm *Adrian Lee*

Federations

Essex

AEPS was founded on June 3rd 1944; we held a celebratory lunch at the County Hotel in Chelmsford on the same day in 2019. Our annual seminar – originally "Workshop" - is both a learning experience and a social event. It enables members of our affiliated societies to meet in an informal way as well as learn about aspects of philately. Despite being held in January the weather is usually kind to us and the event is well supported – more than the AGM! We were invited to give a display to the Royal in early 2020. This was organised by **Len Stanway** who produced a special brochure. There was a wide range of society members' displays, which were well received. We hold two "Stamp Essex" events each year with dealers and displays. The Spring event was ably hosted by Ipswich society at Kesgrave – our membership is not restricted to Essex. As it was the anniversary year the Autumn event was again organised directly by us at Hampton's Sport & Leisure in Chelmsford, an excellent venue. The AGM was held during the event; it was good to see some new attendees. Inevitably we had to note the passing of long-serving society members but one which particularly affected the Association was **Dave Armitage** who served long and well. His drive and enthusiasm – especially for Canada – never waned. With our average age likely to be around that of the Association we approach the future with both hope and trepidation, planning accordingly. *John Dickenson*

Wiltshire and District

A very successful 9-Sheet Competition was organised by the Bath Philatelic Society led by **Keith Chadwick**. All of the entries were displayed at Swinpex. Class winners were **David Gibbon** of Swindon in the Traditional Class, **Kim Stuckey** of Chippenham in Aerophilately, **Mike Tanner** of Bristol in Cinderella, **John Roe** of Bristol Woodlands in Postal History, **Ron Gillard** of Bristol in Thematic, **Stephen Belcher** of Swindon in Postcards,

Hampshire Philatelic Federation

HAMPEX 2020

STAMP FAIR

Saturday 26th September 2020
10.00 am - 4.30 pm
Entrance by programme: £1
accompanied children free
20+ DEALERS IN STAMPS, CINDERELLAS, THEMATICS
AND POSTAL HISTORY
all in one large area

Specialist Stamp Society Meetings
and the largest Competition in the South

Competition Award Presentation at 11:45 am

PRIZE RAFFLE
The Wickham Centre,
Mill Lane, **Wickham**, near Fareham, PO17 5AL

Refreshments and free on-site parking.
The Centre is a short walk from Wickham Market Square served by buses from Winchester and Fareham.
Wickham to Fareham is about three miles by road.

(Hotlines: 01329 845492 or 01794 514902)
HPF Website ***www.hantsfederation.org.uk/hpfhpx.htm***

Stephen Evans of Swindon in Open and, most pleasingly, **Nick Hillier** of Bath in the Novice Class. The results of our 16-Sheet Competitions were announced after our December AGM. The Federation Trophy was won by **Barbara Borlase-Hendry** and the Victor Hutchinson Memorial Trophy was won by **Nigel Borlase-Hendry** both of Swindon. These were independently judged by **Julian Jones**

Nigel & Barbara Borlase-Hendry winners of the 16-sheet competitions

of the Hampshire Federation. The deadline for submission of our next 9-Sheet Competitions is the 1st May 2020 and as normal these will be submitted as 'best quality colour photocopies'.

Paul Latham-Warde

National and specialist societies

Austrian

Few of the Austrian Philatelic Society's hardy perennials reached Vienna for Numiphil on 6th and 7th December. Each year weather, illness and age diminish their number, but those who make it are rewarded by the opportunity to seek philatelic material with which to impress their friends and annoy their enemies; to visit the Christmas Markets; and to meet our Austrian friends once again. In the evenings, the rich cultural heritage of the Austrian capital can be explored - or one can be served the same meal at the same table in the same restaurant

Austrians dining at Meixners

every night for a week. 'S ist mal bei mir so Sitte or Chacun à son goût!

Andy Taylor

Channel Is Specialists'

We held two meetings and a postal auction between September and December 2019. In September the themes were *Postal Independence* and *Maritime*: **Richard Flemming**, **Brian Sole** and **Nick Stuart** showed the former whilst **Jon Aitchison** gave a display on *The S.S. Ibex*. In December we showed *Letters P and O*. **David Winnie**'s display was entitled *P for Paids*, **Richard Flemming** showed *Packet Mail to overseas destinations*, **Mark Bailey** *P for Poppy* (for the 50th Anniversary of the Royal British Legion stamp issue) and **John Triggs** *P for Parcel Post*. **Gerald Marriner** offered postcards advertising *Pensions*, *P for Postage Dues* and finished with *P for Perplexing*. **Steve Wells** had an array of items with *P* in the title, including a postcard addressed to St. Pair sur Mer, as well as mail sorted on a Travelling Post Office, routed via Paris and sent from Jersey to Port Bail. Lastly, **Nick Stuart** showed letters/petitions

concerning the setting up of a *Sub-Post Office in St. Peter in the Wood, Guernsey*. Finally President **Gerald Marriner FRPSL** presented visiting Austrian member **Leo Mayr** with the Joan Flood Salver for his monograph *Waists getting Waspish* published in 2017. Our Postal Auction closed on the 15th November. This was on a smaller scale compared with previous autumn

Unique item - Channel Islands Auction

auctions with 420 lots but still achieved sales of £7679. The star lot was a very scarce Sark registered letter with a 6d KGVI bisected definitive which sold for £600. *Steve Wells*

Gibraltar

The Study Circle in company with members of the Royal Philatelic Society London and the GB Overprints Society were in Gibraltar from the 17th until the 24th October as part of the celebrations of the 150th Anniversary of the Royal. Sunday 20th was a poignant occasion in commemorating the Anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar in the Trafalgar Cemetery in the presence of the Governor, Commander British Forces, Gibraltar, and senior officers of the three services. On Sunday we hosted a dinner at the Eliott Hotel in the presence of the Director of Postal Service of the Royal Gibraltar Post Office and the Manager of the Philatelic Bureau. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday were dedicated to displays given in the Garrison Library by all three societies. On Monday evening a dinner was held with all three societies present. Our displays consisted of a diverse selection of subjects including the *Genesis of the 1977 definitive*

Study Group members in the gardens of the Garrison Library

issue, *1960 definitive issue* incorporating artists' original drawings, *Gibraltar Post Office under Imperial control*, *Force H material*, *Gibraltar Queen Victoria issues* and *Morocco Agencies*, *Gibraltar period to 1898*. It was an excellent week thoroughly enjoyed by all. Our next meeting will be the AGM weekend at the Walton Park Hotel, Clevedon 20th -22nd March 2020.

➔ ***ericholmes@talktalk.net***

Bert Burton

Great Britain

We have now held our first meeting at the new RPSL site. Unfortunately, the programmed display for the morning session had to be cancelled; however six of our members offered to give short displays, and **George King**, **Andy Donaldson**, **Ian Harvey**, **Kevin Maunder**, **Steve Teuma** and **Maurice Buxton** presented a very pleasing mix of subjects from *Free Franks* to *1980s booklet material*, from *Id black Plate 9 repairs* to *Mulready advertisements*, *advertising rings*, *GV stamped to order PC sheets* and *Torquay Postal History*. In the afternoon **Ken Burr FRPSL** gave his display *GB from late 16th Century to 1900*. We saw a variety of different subjects with mail from the late 16th century, interesting overseas mail with details on the postal rates, Scottish Islands mail and a section on mail within Edinburgh, to mention a few from the wide range of the display. It was a good day. The November meeting was devoted to *The Reigns of Edward VII and Edward VIII* with several members giving short displays. Despite the difference in both the length of each reign and the amount of material produced by postal services during those times there was an almost equal division between the displays. Detailed research on both reigns was shown. Essays, paper and shades, the issued stamps, flaws, booklet material, postal stationery were all there, also postal history of the periods, even overseas overprints and, finally, Churchill material with a connection to both kings. Fascinating.

➔ ***membership@gbps.org.uk*** or ***www.gbps.org.uk***

Janet Bygate

Malaya Study Group

At our meeting in Worthing in September there were six presentations by different members showing the diversity and depth of study about this region. We saw: *Provisional Usages Due To War Time Shortages* from **Andrew Norris**; *Thailand routed via Penang or Singapore 1939-41* with **Michael Waugh**, *Modern Malaysia 2018-2019* by **Mike Kingsland**, *First Issues of Malaysia, some 60 years ago* from **Len Stanway**; **Peter Cockburn**`s *BMA entry for Bangkok*, a gold winner in 2018 ; and *Selangor Airmails 1930s-1941*, and then *Utilisation of Stationery Converted in The Japanese Occupation* with **Susan McEwen**. Unfortunately the auction in October was marred by the serious acute illness of one of our auction team resulting in a delay of sending out of postal bids this time, but happily another member stepped into the breach and posting was completed. The Group is now 60 years old. **Dominic Morris**, the Chairman, invited all members to a celebration and display in November, the theme being *A-E*. There were several displays but an erudite presentation by **Neil Macdonald** on new research that he is doing on *BMA Holotypes* may yield more information about this challenging yet deceptively

North Eastern Regional Group Meeting

BILLINGHAM BOWLS CLUB

John Whitehead Park
The Causeway, Billingham-on-Tees TS23 2DA
Saturday 25th April 2020
9.30 to 5.00

There will be:

An invited display of Berwick-Upon-Tweed Postal History (in two parts) given by **David Foster**.

4 rounds of 10-sheet displays by willing participants (maximum of 2 minutes for each talk)

1 round to show a favourite single item (no talk).

Judges will decide on a winning favourite

Tea/Coffee, Buffet Lunch, Tea/Coffee and Cakes/Biscuits

David Foster is a member of Middlesbrough and District PS. He joined in 1976 and has been president three times and president of NEPA 1988-89, NEPA management chairman 1989-1995, newsletter editor 1991-1996. In 1996 he was awarded the NEPA award of merit.
He has many collections and has won many awards for his displays. As a member of the Royal he was one of the northern members who displayed there in September 2019. David will be displaying his collection of postal history of Berwick-upon-Tweed on which he has written a monograph. For anyone who has not seen this outstanding collection or wants to see it again this must-see display will be well worth a visit to Billingham.

An application from is available by contacting: Roy Richardson 07969473121 or ***royjrichardson@hotmail.com***

Italian Federation of Philatelic Societies Bestows Top Honour on Richard Harlow

Meritorious Member of the Golden Roll of Italian Philately

On 23rd November 2019 the Italian Federation of Philatelic Societies celebrations of its centenary, at Verona's most popular national Stamp Exhibition and Trade Show, included the elevation of The Italy and Colonies Honorary Secretary Richard Harlow to "Meritorious Member of the Golden Roll of Italian Philately". The President of the Italian Federation of Philatelic Societies Mr Piero Macrelli made the announcement at the anniversary celebrations before a large audience assisted by Dr Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi Vice-President of the Federation and editor of "Quì Filatelia".

Richard Harlow

Mr Macrelli is pictured making the announcement; at right is Dr Bruno Crevato-Selvaggi

Richard Harlow
Philatelist from a very young age; he served in the British Army in Italy during and after the Second World War; in the course of time he has developed a keen interest and love for Italy and its philately which he has always nurtured: his inspiration was Luciano Buzzetti, Golden Roll of Italian Philately honorees. Italian philately has been and still is the theme of his life: founder and secretary for 45 years of The Italy & Colonies Study Circle, Richard has consistently and tirelessly studied and promoted Italian philately in the Anglo-Saxon world with genuine dedication and knowledge to such an extent that he is de facto its ambassador at large as well as the quintessential and authoritative reference point.

Italy & Colonies Study Circle was proud and delighted to be informed that their secretary Richard Harlow has been awarded such a special honour. Many collectors and also trade contacts will know of Richard as he ran a successful auction in his early years.

Italy & Colonies Study Circle ➔ ***www.icsc-uk.com*** *Paul Woodness*

simple issue. The year ended with November's *Covers with a Story to Tell.* ➔ ***malayastudy group.com***

Michael Waugh

National

We enjoyed a considerable success at Autumn Stampex with several members competing and others taking part in a special display which showed visitors the diversity of the members' philatelic interests. **Simon Richards** won two large golds and his *Postal History of Savoy* was voted "Best in Show" by the judges. **John Davies** won a large gold for his *Penny Black Jubilee* material as did **Chris Symonds** with *GB £1 Queen Victoria*. Six other NPS members were awarded medals. Important changes are in progress for the society's library and auction services. The library is being merged with that of the Royal Philatelic Society, with thousands of items being transferred from storage near Wokingham to the Royal's new headquarters in the City of London. Under an agreement with the Royal, NPS members will be allowed to use the enlarged library and to borrow items. **Michael Thompson**, NPS Hon President, is downsizing his other role as auctioneer and will only conduct catalogue auctions on alternate months; January, March etc. The February, April and alternate monthly meetings will offer a silent auction where members bring in lots on the day. We enjoyed some fine Saturday displays in the autumn including *Czechoslovakia* from **Lindy Bosworth** and *Haiti* from **Geoff Hanney**. Unfortunately, the display of *Brighton Postal History* by **Frank Parsons** had to be postponed, due to speaker

Lindy Bosworth with Czechoslovakia in stamps

illness, but **Mike Thompson** showed his *Odds and Ends* instead.

➔ Peter Mellor 01582 762284. ***npsmemsec@ukphilately.org.uk***

Michael Goodman

New Zealand

Our meetings are on Saturdays at the Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, London SW1 8UJ and will cover the topics of *Routes and Rates* on 28th March and *Trans Antarctic Expeditions* on 25th July, with the AGM and auction (open to all bidders) on 28th November. We look forward to welcoming **Lindsay Chitty**, President of the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand, to present a display on the *1898 Pictorial issue* on Thursday 7th May during London 2020 at the Business Design Centre in Islington. A further highlight should be our eleventh residential weekend, including the biennial 16-sheet competition, to be held at the Copthorne Hotel in Newcastle-upon-Tyne from 25th to 27th September. The Society's regional groups have so far arranged meetings

in 2020 in Birmingham (15th February), Wigan (22nd February, 16th May, 5th September and 14th November), Perth (18th April during the ASPS Congress) and Glasgow (6th June). Our website has details of all Society activities, an extensive research archive and all issues of our award-winning journal, *The Kiwi*, from 1952 to 2015. ➔

www.nzsgb.org.uk, 01732 56997
MWilkin799@aol.com

Michael Wilkinson

The Royal, London

The more spacious new premises were fully utilised in early October when **Edward Klempka FRPSL** presented an incredible display of covers relating to *Foreign Military Activity in the Russian Civil War of 1917 to 1923*. Unfortunately ill health prevented Edward from attending, but his daughter **Isobel** was present to hear the many words of congratulation. Later **Dr Patrick Reid FRPSL** showed an extensive display of *Tasmania*. He

The Queen opens RPSL's new headquarters

On Tuesday, 26th November Her Majesty the Queen graciously visited 15 Abchurch Lane to open officially the new headquarters of The Royal Philatelic Society London. Her Majesty was greeted by **The Lord Mayor, Alderman William Russell** as Lord Lieutenant, who presented **Richard Stock FRPSL**, President of the Society, to Her Majesty together with **Peter Cockburn FRPSL**, **Mike Roberts FRPSL**, Vice-Presidents, and **Patrick Maselis RDP FRPSL**, the immediate Past President. The Queen then met those closely involved with refurbishing the new premises and organizing the move that took place during the summer, notably **Christopher King RDP FRPSL** and **Brian Trotter RDP FRPSL**. It was fitting that the visit took place during the 150th anniversary as Her Majesty had previously visited the Society on 14th April 1969 to mark its Centenary. The Queen toured the new premises and **Nicola Davies**, the Head of Collections, showed Her Majesty some of the important artefacts held there, including the letter from the future King George V to Lord Crawford regarding the use of the Royal prefix in the Society's name. In the Meeting Room on the first floor The Queen viewed a special display of material from the Society's Philatelic Collections, and a selection of the Society's extensive publications. Representatives from some of the eighty countries where members reside were presented to Her Majesty and she showed great interest in the work undertaken by the Expert Committee. Her Majesty heard how the Society is encouraging collecting among young people. The Queen visited the Philatelic Library, amongst the finest in the world, where Her Majesty was presented with a copy of the recent publication *A History of the Royal Philatelic Society London 1869-2019*. Throughout her visit The Queen met members of the staff, officers of the Society and many of the volunteers who ensure its position as the premier philatelic society in the world. The President thanked Her Majesty before she signed the Attendance Book and unveiled a plaque to mark the official opening of the new premises.

See the front cover for some of the photographs of the visit

Richard Stock FRPSI and Isobel Klempka

opened with early letters from Hobart and Launceston, including one sent from Hobart to London in 1823 showing the first dated handstamp in the form of a crowned oval. In lighter vein came the story of Tattersall's Lottery establishing by George Adams. Today 'Tatts' is still very much a part of life in Australia with a Lotto game every two minutes. The idea of having hotel post offices originated in Switzerland in 1849. In 1891 this was adopted in Egypt. The story of these Egyptian hotel posts was told by **Richard Wheatley FRPSL** in early November. The second region to present was the South East in late November, with no fewer than 32 members contributing. The presentations were organized by **Michael Farrant FRPSL** and **Tony Bosworth FRPSL**. We enjoyed a highly entertaining and unusual presentation when **Dr Seija-Riitta Laakso FRPSL** told the story of *Paris by Night* through the once highly-popular picture postcard. The cards revealed the sparkling night-life of Paris during the 'Belle Epoque' from the wild 1890s to the First World War.

West Africa

At the recent West Africa Study Circle meeting, our first at RPSL's new headquarters in Abchurch Lane, the main displays were given by **Simon Heap** – *Lagos: stamps, staff and statistics*; and **Jeremy Martin** – *Togo up to 1922*. Other members contributed a wide assortment of West African items in the Members' Displays session, ranging from *Basel Mission covers* right through to the *2018 50th Anniversary of Rivers State commemorative set from Nigeria*.

Philip Quirk

The Wreck & Crash Mail

We held a meeting at Aeropex19 in Adelaide on 6th December. Four

WCMS Members Martin Walker (Aust), Ken Sanford (USA), Brian Peace (UK) and John Thiesen (Denmark) at Aeropex19

members and fifteen guests attended a presentation by **Ken Sanford** on *Air Crash Mail of Imperial Airways - Some Interesting Aspects.* *Brian Peace*

Any comments, ideas or thoughts - write in and share them. See page 58

2020 PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GB

will take place from Thursday 3rd to Sunday 6th September
at the Three Swans Hotel, Market Harborough.
This is later than usual because of LONDON 2020

The hotel is in the middle of this delightful
and historic market town.
There is an adequate car park.
East Midlands Railways run a fast service from London St Pancras direct to Market Harborough. There are also links to Derby, Leicester and Nottingham.

The programme is now being arranged and will include:

- The Kay Goodman lecture on some aspect of Philately
- A series of presentations by members of The Pacific Islands Study Circle
- The award of the 2020 Congress Medal

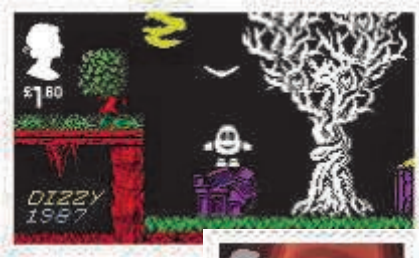
As usual the AGM of ABPS will be at Congress. It will be on the Friday in the late morning before lunch. Every affiliated society is entitled to have a voting representative present, though other members of affiliated societies are also welcome. This is your opportunity to ask questions of the Association's Officers and to make any representations about matters that concern your society or you personally about the work of the Association.

Booking forms will be sent out shortly to those who have attended Congress in the past but new visitors will be very welcome. It is a great opportunity to meet collectors from outside your own area and discuss, chat and socialise. There are no restrictions on participation. Attendance for a day is worth considering by members of societies within easy travelling distance of Market Harborough.

For further enquiries please contact the Chairman of Congress, Gerald Marriner via email at ***gerald.marriner@gmail.com***

British Stamp news

Between 40 and 30 years ago video games really burst on the scene and parents complained about their children being so involved in them. Presumably they hoped that their children would carry on stamp-collecting. Now we parents can take up the stamps of the video games and see what the attraction was. Will these bring anyone back to stamp-collecting? Somehow I doubt it, just as I doubt that the stamps will appear on an envelope coming to my house. I could be wrong of course, but I won't be expecting all 12 of the issue to come through the letterbox. Apparently Britain's contribution to the video-gaming world needed a celebration.



I did receive a couple of the 2019 Christmas stamps and I must admit that they did please me. Enlarged they gave a good impression of the Christmas story with lots of detail though some of that was lost in the smallness of the stamp-size. However at least the theme and the representation was entirely appropriate to the season. I was interested to read how these stamps were designed. Apparently it was a fusion of paper art and lighting - very clever and surprisingly effective. How I wish that my miserable artistic streak could come up with ideas like that!

Many people have been waiting for, then visiting and commenting on, the film *Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker*. Presumably Royal Mail hoped that they would then nip down to their local Post Office to buy the stamps and so start collecting - perhaps going back for the other two sets previously issued. Assuming that they can find a post office, I wonder if it would have any of the stamps - mine has very few if any of the special stamp issues. As I don't know the majority of the characters, sorry but I don't feel the loss. Perhaps another issue for new collectors - not for me.

The Editor's views are not necessarily those of the ABPS

Stamp Active At LONDON 2020

Stamp Active, the voluntary group that promotes stamp collecting to young people in Great Britain, will be one of the features at the London 2020 International Stamp Exhibition in May. We will be providing free activities for young and novice collectors. Youngsters will receive free stamps, goodie bags and activity books and will be able to take part in fun activities including stamp art workshops and games. There will also be help on hand for any collectors who are new to the hobby and want help to get started. This will include displays of starter packs and accessories, Q & A sessions and advice on mounting and writing up a collection together with details of stamp competitions. Stamp Active will be found in Gallery Bay 12 on the left hand side of the Hall. *David Rossall*

Diary

Local and regional events by ABPS members

Please give the postcode of your venues - it helps people with satnavs.

March

- 7 Launceston Stamp Fair: 10 - 3, Central Methodist Hall, Castle St., **Launceston** PL15 8BA ➔ 01288 355918 or ***www.cornwallphilatelic.co.uk/contact-us.php***
- 7 Royal Sutton Coldfield PS Annual Stamp Fair & Exhibition: 10 - 4, Collingwood Centre, Collingwood Drive, **Pheasey**, **Birmingham** B43 7NF ➔ 0121 313 0671 or 07979597498 or ***sharrison500@btinternet.com***
- 14 Swansea Philatelic Society Annual Stamp and Postcard Fair: 9.30 - 4, St. Illtyd's Church Hall, **Fforestfach**, **Swansea** SA5 4BT
- 18 Grimsby & District Club Auction ➔ Chris Dodworth 06549281651 for information and catalogue
- 21 Falmouth Stamp Fair: 10 - 4, St Francis School, Longfield, **Falmouth** TR11 4SU ➔ 01326 372991 or ***www.cornwallphilatelic.co.uk/contact-us.php***
- 28 WESTBEX 2020: 10 - 4, The Kennet School, Stoney Lane, **Thatcham**, Berkshire RG19 4LL ➔ 01635 866942 ***www.tdps.org.uk***

April

- 11 Ferndown & West Moors Philatelic & Postcard Club Annual Fair: 10 - 4, Hamworthy Club, Magna Road, **Bournemouth** BH21 3AL ➔ Alan King 01202 064298
- 11 Telford Stamp, Card and Coin Fair: 9.30 - 2, Belmont Hall, New Street, **Wellington**, **Telford** TF1 1LU
- 18 Bromley & Beckenham Stamp & Postcard Fair, Kent Federation AGM and Spring Rally Competitions: Langley Park Boys School, South Eden Park Road, **Beckenham** BR3 3BP
- 25 Morecambe PS Annual Fair: 10 - 3, The Platform, Marine Road Central (opposite the Midland Hotel), **Morecambe** LA4 4DB

May

- 9 Wreck & Crash Mail & British Air Mail Societies - Joint Meeting: 2.00 at Business Design Centre during LONDON 2020
- 16 South Wales Philatelic Societies Annual Convention: 9.30 - 4, Princess Royal Theatre, **Port Talbot** SA13 1PJ
- 21 Redruth Stamp Fair: 10 - 4, Jubilee Hall, Wesley Building, Wesley Street, **Redruth** TR15 2EG ➔ 07927 198758 or ***www.cornwallphilatelic.co.uk/contact-us.php***

June

- 6 RINGPEX Ringwood Philatelic Society Annual Fair**:** 10 - 4, Greyfriars Community Centre, **Ringwood** BH24 1DW 01425470710
- 13 SWINPEX 2020: 10 - 4, St Joseph's RC College, Ocotal Way, **Swindon**, Wiltshire, SN3 3LR ➔ ***gibbon35@gmail.com*** or 01793813484
- 20 "Mayflower 400" Plymouth Stamp & Postcard Exhibition & Fair and Wessex Federation: 10 - 4, Plymouth Guildhall, **Plymouth** PL1 2BJ ➔ 01752 402981

July

- 11 YPA Convention: Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, **Wakefield** WF1 3QX
- 11 Telford Stamp, Card and Coin Fair: 9.30 - 2, Belmont Hall, New Street, **Wellington**, **Telford** TF1 1LU
- 15 Grimsby & District Club Auction ➔ Chris Dodworth 06549281651 for information and catalogue

August

- 1 NEWQUEX Stamp Fair: 10 - 4, Trevisker St. Eval Community Centre, Orion Drive, **St Eval**, Near Wadebridge PL27 7TU ➔ 01288 355918 or ***www.cornwallphilatelic.co.uk/contact-us.php***

September

- 26 HAMPEX 2020 Hampshire Federation: 10 - 4, Wickham Centre, Mill Lane, **Wickham** PO17 5AL. ➔ ***www.hantsfederation.org.uk/hpfhpx.htm***

October

- 3 Yeovil Stamp and Postcard Fair: Digby Memorial Hall, **Sherborne**
- 10 Morecambe & District Annual Auction: Viewing from 10, Auction starts at 1, The Memorial Hall, Poulton Square, **Morecambe** LA4 5PZ ➔ 01524 733589 or 01931 715600
- 10 Telford Stamp, Card and Coin Fair: 9.30 - 2, Belmont Hall, New Street, **Wellington**, **Telford** TF1 1LU
- 24 CORNEX Pensilva: 10 - 4, Millennium Hall, Princess Road, **Pensilva**, **Liskeard** PL14 5NF ➔ 01288 355918 or ***www.cornwallphilatelic.co.uk/contact-us.php***
- 31 Taunton Annual Stamp Fair:10 - 4, St James Church Hall, St James Street, **Taunton** TA1 1JS ➔ Peter Hardie 01823 666371

ABPS accredited judges

The current list of ABPS accredited exhibition/competition judges can be found on the ABPS web site ***www.abps.org.uk*** Click on the "Exhibiting" tab, then the "Judges" tab that is on the 2nd line of tabs.

For the next few years

National Exhibitions 2020-21

Held at Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, **London** N1 0QH unless otherwise stated.

- There will be no SPRING STAMPEX 2020.
- 30th September - 3rd October 2020: AUTUMN STAMPEX 2020: The British Thematic Association will be the lead society. Barry Stagg is the coordinator. It will include an inter-Federation competition. Details will be published in February / March 2020
- 17th - 20th February 2021 SPRING STAMPEX 2021
- 29th September - 2nd October 2021 AUTUMN STAMPEX 2021

International Exhibitions 2020-2021

- 2nd - 9th May 2020 LONDON 2020 International Stamp Exhibition: Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, **London** N1 0QH. Specialised World Stamp Championship Exhibition with FIP patronage and FEPA recognition. 2750 frames (change-over of material after 4 days). Competitive classes will be Championship, Traditional, Postal History, Aerophilately, Revenue, Postal Stationery, Thematic, Literature (including digital), Open, Modern, Picture Postcards and Youth. ➔ ***www.london2020.co*** UK Commissioner: Mike JY Roberts. Assistant Commissioner: Kim Stuckey. **Volunteers Sought** The Organising Committee are keen to recruit volunteers to help run LONDON 2020. If you would like to help, please go to ***www.london2020.co*** and click the "**Sign up here to Volunteer**" link.
- 6th - 11th August 2020: INDONESIA 2020, Djakarta. FIP Patronage. UK Commissioner: John Jackson ***john.w.jackson@care4free.net***
- 17th - 20th March 2021: SOUTH AFRICA 2021, Cape Town, South Africa**.** FIP patronage. UK Commissioner: Jon Aitchison ***britishlocals@aol.com*** Further information on classes, dates and IREX is at ***www.capetown2021.org***
- 6th - 9th May 2021: IBRA 2021 Essen. FIP specialised international exhibition with FEPA recognition. Classes invited will be Traditional, Postal History, Thematic and Picture Postcard. Details awaited.
- August 2021: PHILNIPPON 2021, Yokohama. FIP patronage. To mark the 150th anniversary of the Japanese postage stamp. Details awaited.
- 19th - 22nd November 2021: NOTOS 2021 Athens. FEPA patronage with FIP recognition. All classes invited. ➔ ***hps.gr/notos2021*** or ***notos2021@hps.gr***

Details of FEPA exhibitions are at ***http://www.fepanews.com/***

Web information

Further information can be found on the ABPS website ***www.abps.org.uk*** on the "Exhibiting" tab.

Simon Richards, Chairman ABPS International & Exhibitions Committee
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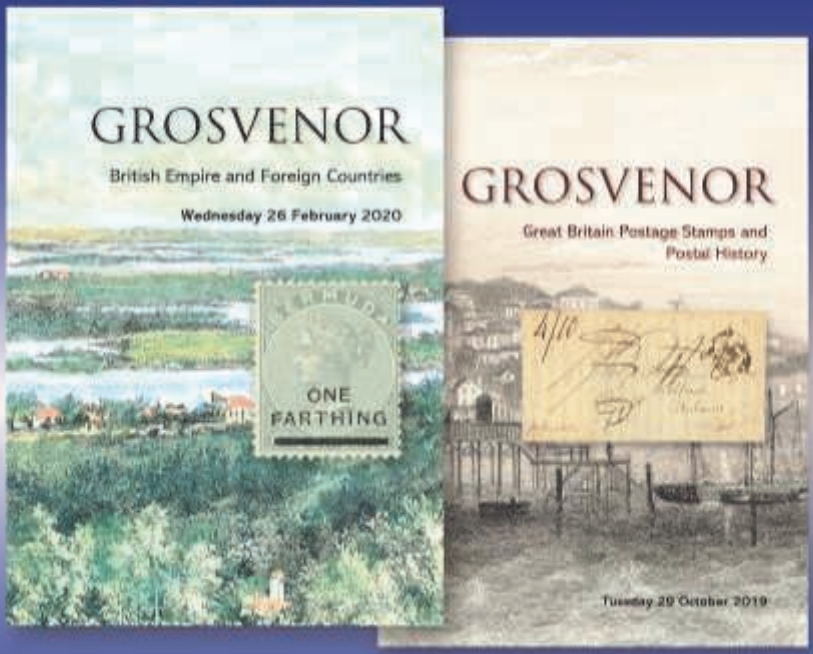

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